

FIRST
SECTION
...
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2008

CRAWFORD COUNTY AVALANCHE

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Ice fishing is matter of local tradition

by Matt Seager
Staff Writer

Crawford County has always been known for its fishing, especially on the AuSable River. But for those who think the fun stops when the snow hits the ground, think again. Local ice fishermen are keeping their poles in the water even during winter's coldest months.

"A fisherman is going to be a fisherman year round," said Keith Miles, an avid ice fisherman who operates Fay's Motel.

The *Avalanche* took the opportunity to investigate the sport of ice fishing in the local area, digging up helpful safety tips and equipment advice. We also gained some insight into the popularity of a sport that is something of a tradition among many local families.

Ice Safety

A common concern among people who are new to the sport is the safety of the ice. How can you be sure you won't break through?

"On a rule of thumb, ice fishing is a real, real safe sport," said Jack Millikin, owner of Skip's Sport Shop.

Local experts and enthusiasts offered plenty of advice to help ensure a safe and fun ice fishing experience.

First, it's important that the lake has had sufficient time to freeze over. Although there is no universal standard, it's important to make sure the ice is

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See "ICE FISHING..."



Joe VandenBos, age 12, holds up a 27 inch northern pike minutes after catching it at Lake Margrethe on Dec. 26. He said his favorite thing about the sport is when he gets to gaff the fish. In the background, the fishing shanties of local ice fishing enthusiasts are visible.

Snowmobilers turned off by erratic snow conditions, slow economy

by Matt Seager
Staff Writer

This year's snowmobile season is off to a shaky start, and local officials are worried that the consequence could be another slow winter tourist season.

Despite strong efforts from the AuSable Valley Snowmobile Association to establish and maintain trails, there is mounting concern that shifting snow conditions and a slow economy will keep tourists off their sleds this winter.

"It's the economics of the state. That's even more of an effect than the snow," said AuSable Valley Snowmobile Association (AVSA) President Rich Filley.

The AVSA started grooming trails for this season on Dec. 2. Since then, over 1,156 miles of trails have been groomed, requiring 172 man hours. Despite these efforts, the trails have been less busy than was hoped for at this point in the season, even on days when the weather conditions were ideal.

"We're not seeing the traffic, even on the weekends," said Filley.

Although it is still early in the season, this might be a sign that a decline in valuable tourist activity from snowmobile enthusiasts will continue in a down-

ward trend.

Many local businesses, especially gas stations, motels and restaurants, count on winter snowmobile traffic as a source of income.

"It's a huge economic impact to this area," said Filley.

With what appears to be a decline in tourist activity, these businesses may be feeling the pinch.

"Last season, there were 35,000 less trail permits sold (statewide) than the season before," said Filley.

These numbers are particularly troubling because funds from trail permit sales provide for the grant money that allows for the trails to be groomed in the first place.

Of course, the snow conditions last season were some of the worst in years, with a solid base of snow failing to emerge until well into January. Nonetheless, it is difficult to dismiss the cumulative impact of a slow Michigan economy and rising gas prices.

"At premium, you're looking at \$50 fills on a snowmobile. It's a substantial amount of money," said Filley, who noted that snowmobiling is traditionally a blue-collar driven sport.

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See "SNOWMOBILERS..."

Local girl gets a trim for Locks of Love

by Matt Seager
Staff Writer

Sometimes the smallest people have the biggest hearts. Although nine-year-old Ashley Branch almost appeared too little for her adult sized chair at a local salon, she was determined to make a big difference in another kid's life.

Branch, who is currently in the fourth grade, decided to get into the holiday spirit this year by doing what she could to improve the life of a stranger who she will never meet. On Dec. 27, she donated 10 inches of her hair to Locks of Love.

"My aunt has cancer and I realized that little kids have cancer too," said Branch.

Locks of Love is a non-profit charity organization which collects donations of hair for the purpose of making wigs. These wigs are then freely distributed to kids under age 18 who suffer from debilitating illnesses that result in hair loss. In most cases, this is caused by a condition called alopecia areata. Hair loss also often occurs as a side effect of cancer treatment.

While medical conditions

Continued on Page 10A

See "LOCAL GIRL..."



Shawn Carlson of Salon Rue (right) prepares to cut 10 inches of hair off the head of nine-year-old Ashley Branch. Branch decided that she wanted to make a difference by donating her hair to kids suffering from cancer and other conditions that cause hair loss.

Charities provide help for holidays

by Dan Sanderson
Staff Writer

Local charities and volunteers assisted dozens of area families and children for the Christmas holiday.

The Crawford County Community Christian Help Center assisted over 300 people during their "Christmas Help" period, providing them with food and winter clothing.

"There is more need because of the unemployment," said Gerry Schroeder, the coordinator for the Crawford County Community Christian Help Center.

Volunteers at Crawford County Community Christian Help Center will continue to be on hand to help families as they struggle through the New Year.

"If they get here, we will help them," Schroeder said.

The Crawford County Toys for Tots program, which marked its 10th year serving the community, provided toys to over 900 children.

Marianne Gosnell, the coordinator for the Toys for Tots program in Crawford County, said donations were down for the holiday.

"If families came here, they did not go without, but we haven't been as able to be as generous as in the past," Gosnell said.

Gosnell attributed the lack of donations to high home heating and gas prices. She said that the downtown may prompt changes to next year's holiday program.

"Everybody is in a crunch and everything is tough right now," she said.

The Crawford County Deputy Sheriff's Association took a record 24 children shopping through its Cops for Kids program. Funds were raised through the 12th annual Cops for Kids Christmas tree sale.

The children were also treated to lunch at the Grayling Pizza Hut, before they were taken home with a food basket donated by the Grayling Eagles Club - Ladies Auxiliary.

"We were just trying to help more families in the community and we appreciate everybody's donations," said Deputy Shawn Schnoor, the president of the Crawford County Deputy Sheriff's Association.

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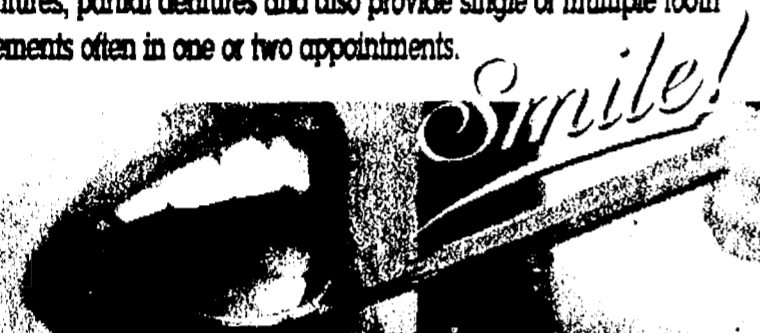
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Houghton Lake West Branch Gladwin Roscommon

Scouts celebrate Christmas



Members of the Cub Scout Pack #3993 had its annual Christmas party on Dec. 10. Scouts made Christmas ornaments, sang Christmas carols and had a visit from Santa. Left, Teemu Garrity and Dakota Samsel, members of the Cub Scout Den-Wolves, make Christmas ornaments. Above, the Scouts visit with Santa. For more information about Cub Scouts, contact Barb or Brad Summers at 348-9755. The Scouts' program starts back up on Monday, Jan. 7.

Hanson Hills ski season gets an early start

by Matt Seager
Staff Writer

As of Dec. 20, Grayling's publicly funded ski park is back in action for the 2007/2008 season. Despite warmer weather during Christmas week, park staff reports that the slopes and trails are fully ready for winter sports enthusiasts.

This marks the first time in a few years that weather conditions have permitted Hanson Hills to open before the holiday season. According to Grayling Recreation Authority Director Justin Andre, this December opening was good news for both the park and the many Crawford County residents who enjoy its services.

"In the past couple of years,

we haven't been open, just because of the weather," said Andre.

Park staff took advantage of the cold weather in the middle of last month by using snow machines to help build a solid base.

"We made snow for two weeks straight," said Andre.

Consequently, Hanson Hills managed to keep the slopes open during last week's warm spell, although conditions were less than ideal.

"It's been kind of slow, but the weather hasn't been that cooperative, either," said Andre.

On the bright side, the downhill runs at Hanson Hills are not entirely dependent on natural snowfall, unlike cross country skiing or snowmobile trails.

"As long as the temperatures are cooperative, then we can always make snow," said Andre.

Andre noted that he expects to see more locals and tourists hitting the downhill slopes as the weather improves. There is already a sizeable contingent of local kids making use of the Hanson Hills terrain park on a daily basis.

Meanwhile, Hanson Hills' groomed cross country trail system has already proven to be as popular as ever this ski season.

"Members so far have been way up on the cross country," said Andre.

This year, the park has introduced a new course to its popular trail system.



Josh Johnson, a 10th grader at Grayling High School, nails a jump at the Hanson Hills terrain park. Many in the community have recognized that the ski park is a great resource for local kids.

"We added a new beginner loop," said Andre.

Entitled "Pine Knoll," the new beginner's trail is a relaxed one mile romp on easy terrain. It is also ideal for families with young kids who have more limited endurance.

Hanson Hills even sponsors its own Michigan Cup cross country ski team, in partnership with Grayling's Cross Country Ski Shop. This team represents one more way that Hanson Hills is

trying to connect the Grayling community to the fun of winter sports.

"We have a social group and yet it's competitive at the same time," said Andre.

For more information on rates and upcoming events, visit www.hansonhills.org or call 888-876-2196.

"Things have been running pretty smooth ... we're just waiting for people to come ski," said Andre.

Fine for house number violations approved

by Dan Sanderson
Staff Writer

Crawford County officials recently added some teeth to its uniformed house numbering system ordinance, calling for a fine for homeowners who don't have visible numbers on their homes or signs at the end of their driveways.

The Crawford County Board of Commissioners, at its regular monthly meeting in December, approved amendments to the county's uniform house numbering system. The ordinance was initially adopted by county officials in 1986.

The changes were recommended by Crawford County's Local Emergency Planning

Committee, a group of police, fire, EMS, hospital and business officials who meet regularly to review emergency planning policies and procedures.

Under the changes, all existing structures in the county must comply with the uniform house numbering system. The policy requires three to four inch letters to be placed on a home that are visible from the roadway. If the home is more than 90 feet from the road, or is blocked by trees, shrubs or another structure, a house numbering sign must be attached to a tree, fence, post or mailbox within 10 feet of the driveway leading to the home.

"It's something that definitely has to be done, and it's a shame

we have to force people to do it," County Commissioner Terry Beardslee said regarding the amendments to the ordinance.

Violation of the sign ordinance carries a \$50 fine or one day in jail. Each day a violation occurs is considered a separate offense under the ordinance.

"The key issue is we don't want their fifty dollars. We want the sign out at the end of their road or on their house," said Dave Stephenson, chairman of the Crawford County Board of Commissioners.

County and township zoning administrators will enforce the ordinance.

"It only helps them because it's their local emergency services that are going to be responding," said Crawford County Administrator Paul Compo, regarding township zoning officers enforcing the ordinance.

Larry Akers, the emergency planning and 911 director for Crawford County, said there are a number of homes and structures in the county that don't have the required signage, making it difficult for police and emergency responders to locate them.

"It does happen on a fairly regular basis, and it does take some time to find the homes, even with our mapping and the stuff we have here," Akers said.

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Personal Ponies go caroling



Members from Personal Ponies of Michigan, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the belief that the life of a child with disabilities can be immeasurably enriched by having a small pony to love and care for, went Christmas caroling in Grayling last week with "Teddy," a miniature donkey that is part of the program. Above left, Vickie Sheathelm, the state director for Michigan, and the national director of promotion and placement of ponies for Personal Ponies, is pictured with Teddy by the Christmas tree in front of the Crawford County Courthouse. Above right, Alyssa Beckwith gets a close up view of Teddy as the Personal Ponies carolers visited her family's home.

Ridership continues to rise on busses

by Dan Sanderson
Staff Writer

The Crawford County Transportation System marked a banner year in 2007, providing transportation to hundreds of people due to high gas prices and the slow economy.

Ridership continues to grow for the Crawford County Transportation System. For example, in October, they transported 11,308 people, including 587 wheel chair lifts and 566 seniors. The busses traveled over 48,000 miles.

Ridership continues to increase by 1,000 people per month since October of 2005.

"We are the sole transportation for so many people in this county," said Julie Dean, the executive director for the Crawford County Transportation System. "We do it all."

In addition to taking people to work and running errands, the transportation system's busses also go on specialized runs daily.

Five days a week, Crawford County Transportation System vans take local residents to the Biederman Cancer Center in Traverse City for chemotherapy treatment. Three days a week, the transportation system transports patients to the Dialysis Services of Gaylord for treatment. The bus system also transports Grayling Nursing Center residents to appointments in Gaylord, Traverse City and

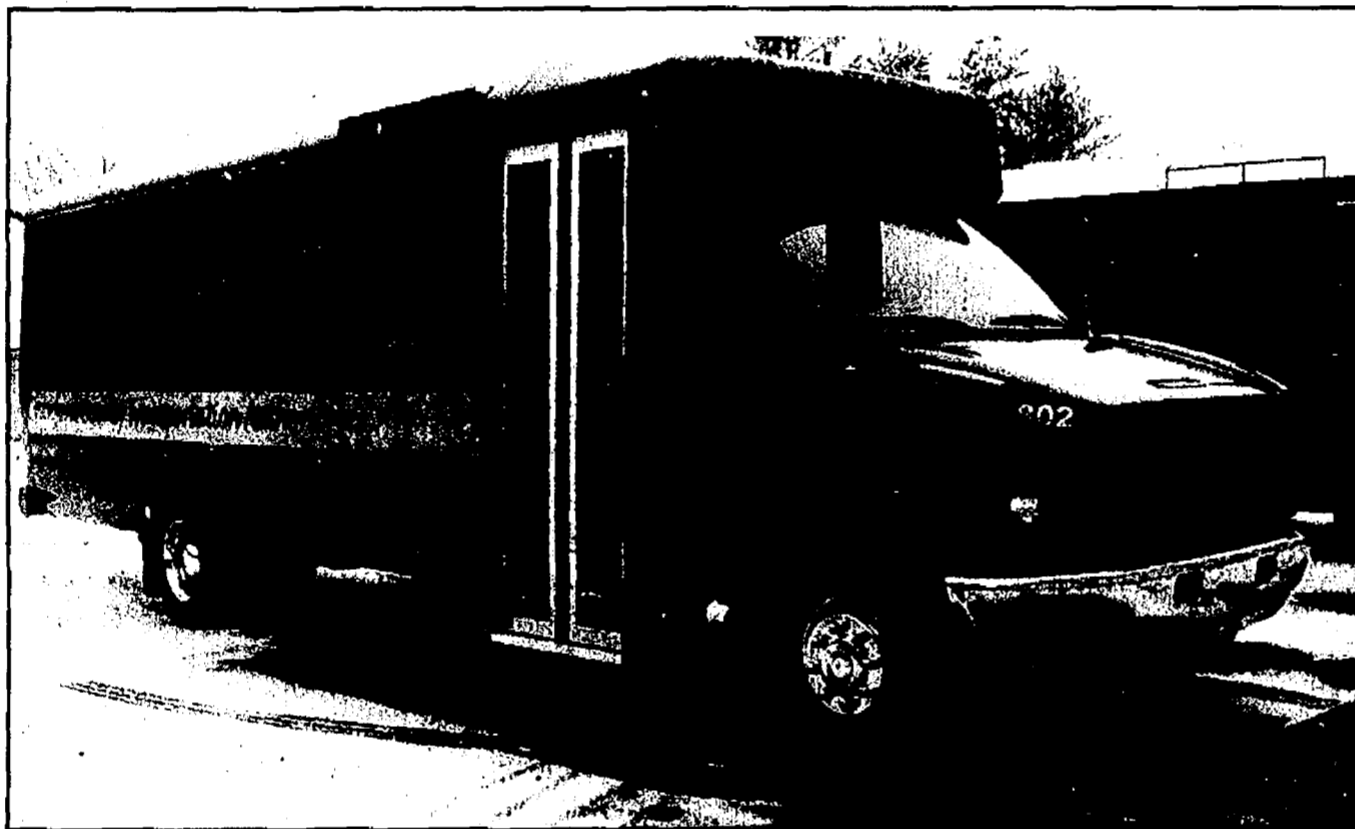


Photo by Dan Sanderson

The Crawford County Transportation System recently received two new busses through a Michigan Department of Transportation grant program.

Petoskey.

The transportation system delivers hundreds of meals, for the Crawford County Commission on Aging, to residents in South Branch and Beaver Creek Townships.

"We do the outskirts in the county and we deliver all the meals," Dean said.

In addition, the transportation system does monthly Out to Lunch trips for the seniors, and provides trips to the casinos in Petoskey and Traverse City.

The transportation system also delivers packages and flowers for

local businesses.

Busses also take youngsters to and from the Headstart programs in Grayling and Frederic. Parents also rely on the busses to get about 3,500 children to early and late sports practices and to school.

The Crawford County Transportation System recently received two new busses through a Michigan Department of Transportation grant program.

Aging busses, however, will be kept in the fleet until newer busses arrive through the same state program.

The transportation system provides rides to over 600 people daily.

"We need everything out there," Dean said.

While dealing with high fuel prices, the fares continue to be \$1 for adults and 50 cents for seniors, children and handicapped people.

"We're not in the business of making money," Dean said. "We are here to serve the people of this county."

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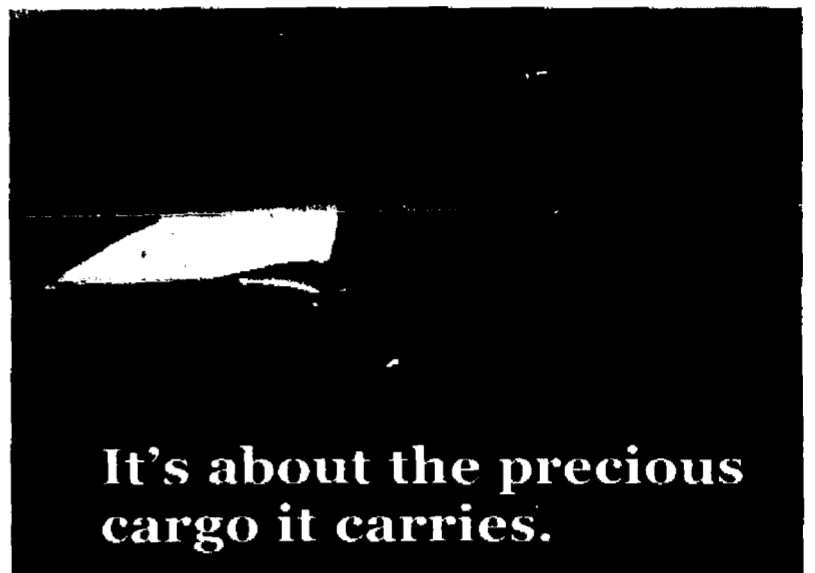
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OPINIONS

The opinions expressed in the letters and columns on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Crawford County Avalanche.



ALMANACK

by Richard Milliman

Take a look at what's right in America

AS WE END one year and begin another, a standard American practice is to take stock of who we are, what we are, where we are, and where we might be heading.

It's sort of a soul-searching version of the traditional New Year's Resolutions.

It's easy to dwell on the negative — what's wrong with my life, what's wrong with America, what's wrong with the world.

But there's plenty on the positive side, too, if only we have sense enough to recognize truth.

We live in a pretty amazing country, with a pretty amazing history.

Our Constitution has stood up for 230 years or so with only relatively minor tinkering. Of course, equal rights amendments following the War Between the States and voting rights for women are not minor tinkering by any means, but the fact is that the basic Constitution, with its Bill of Rights, has stood the test of time unmatched in any other modern nation.

A Civil War such as America endured almost 150 years ago, in fact, may well have fractured many countries beyond repair, but the United States survived this great internal strife, which is tribute to the men and women who steered our still-new nation in the 1800s, just as the origins of the United States are tribute to the men and women who envisioned and developed and fought for our new nation in the 1700s.

IT WAS NOT easy going when our nation was born.

"Consider that 56 men signed the Declaration of Independence. Five were captured or imprisoned in the war that followed. Nine died of wounds or hardships. Twelve lost their homes. Seventeen lost everything they owned. Every last one of them was hunted. Most were driven into hiding. They were offered immunity, rewards, return of their property or freedom of their loved ones if they would desert their cause. Not one did. Not one broke that

pledge."

These claims were part of a promotion some years ago by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, in a campaign focused on "What's Right With America."

Would the leaders of our nation today, and the rest of us, for that matter, have the mettle and the resolve to persevere as our founders did? One must wonder.

AMERICA HAS many assets we tend to ignore or take for granted. Consider these strengths emphasized in the Chamber of Commerce pro-America campaign:

— The greatest amount of freedom for the individual of any country in the world. Freedom of choice and religion, freedom of thought and speech.

— A system of public education, higher learning, and continuing adult study offering rich intellectual fulfillment to all who accept its opportunities.

— A strong economic system, including incentive for individual productivi-

ty, envied by many countries in the world.

— A surplus of moral energy and courage. We're a better country for it.

— Willingness to experiment with different forms of social, economic and political organization ... keeping what works and discarding what doesn't.

— Freedom of our communications media to encourage development and expression of informed opinion ... and a growing concern, incomplete though it may be, for personal, governmental and commercial ethics and behavior.

— Health facilities and a medical delivery system of exceptional quality.

— A great wealth of investment capital, much of it waiting to be used in development of jobs and productivity, to build better standards of life for our citizens and the world.

— Extraordinary technical and scientific talent, constantly working to improve our living standards and expand our knowledge of ourselves, our world and the universe.

THAT'S HOW the U.S. Chamber of Commerce promotional campaign sized up things 25 or so years ago, and the analysis holds up pretty well today. Certainly we face many problems, both at home and around the world ... and we may have criticisms here and there; but by and large — like our U.S. Constitution — on balance America and we who live here still come out all right.

We repeat here the advice offered when we first explored these themes in The Almanack in the 1970s:

"When we look into the future, toward the towering problems and challenges that face our nation, our community, our families, ourselves, it's encouraging to take a look at what's right with America, instead of automatically concentrating on what's wrong with America."

Richard Milliman is a veteran newspaperman, and a contributing columnist to several Michigan newspapers.

WASHINGTON NOTES

By Carl Levin, U.S. Senator (D-Michigan)

Combating sky-high oil prices

With gasoline, diesel fuel and home heating oil near record high prices, Michigan families are feeling the squeeze. High energy prices add to the cost of almost everything in our daily lives—the gasoline in our cars and trucks, air travel, heating bills, generating electricity, and manufacturing countless industrial and consumer products.

To try to get to the bottom of why these prices are skyrocketing, I chaired a hearing this month of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations into sky-high oil prices, caused in part by excessive speculation in the oil markets. It is one in a series of hearings and reports my subcommittee has produced to investigate inflated gasoline,

natural gas and crude oil prices that are hurting millions of Americans and American businesses.

Almost a year ago, on January 18, 2007, the price of crude oil — the oil that is pumped from the ground and can be used to produce everything from gasoline to rubber to plastic — was \$50 a barrel. A few weeks ago, the price reached an all-time high of \$99 a barrel, nearly twice as much.

Why did the price of crude oil nearly double? Some experts try to explain the increase by pointing to instability in the Middle East, bad weather affecting oil production platforms, civil strife in oil producing countries, or the declining value of the dollar.

But none of those factors are new. Instability in the Middle East has existed for years. There is always bad weather somewhere, and civil strife has long affected oil producing countries. The dollar rises and falls. None of these factors explains the sudden doubling of oil prices in the last twelve months.

What is new is an explosion of speculative trades in the oil market. Increasing numbers of buyers and sellers, who do not produce or use oil, have entered the energy markets to make a profit by buying and selling contracts for the future delivery of oil. The oil is not intended to be delivered. Over the past few years, the number of speculative

trades has nearly tripled, going from 15% to over 40% of all energy trades on the New York Mercantile Exchange, one of the primary oil trading markets.

By buying and selling oil contracts in record amounts, speculators have created additional demand for oil contracts beyond the actual needs of companies and consumers. Supply and inventories have remained relatively consistent, but the result is higher oil prices for American families.

We need to act now to combat excessive speculation in U.S. energy markets. One step is for Congress to enact the Close the Enron Loophole Act, a bill I introduced earlier this year and which passed in the Senate this

month that will put a "cop on the beat" in unregulated energy markets, strengthen energy market oversight, and stop excessive speculation. A second step is for oil experts at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to recognize the importance of market speculation in setting prices and develop better tools to deal with it.

We have also determined that the U.S. government is contributing to high prices with its own purchases of oil. The DOE is charged with maintaining the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, an emergency supply of crude oil. Because of a law that I sponsored, the DOE is required to fill the Reserve economically, so that taxpayer dollars are not

wasted purchasing oil at inflated prices. Adding to the Reserve right now, even though it is already nearly full, not only forces taxpayers to pay top dollar for oil, but also reduces market supplies and further boosts prices. To help control the outrageous price of oil, the DOE should stop putting \$99 per barrel oil into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Oil is too expensive to ignore market speculation that is lining the pockets of oil traders at the expense of working families. Sky-high oil prices strike another blow to our already weak economy, and it is past time to clamp down on trading abuses.

Carl Levin is the senior U.S. Senator from Michigan.

What Do You Think?

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To express an opinion on a news, feature, or op-ed article, click on a story and scroll down to the "What do you think?" header (it's highlighted with a red

color bar). Fill in your name and type your comments in the area provided, and click on the "Post Comment" icon when finished. Existing comments are listed between the "What do you think?" header and the area to post new comments.

All comments are subject to approval by Crawford County Avalanche management prior to publication on our Internet site. Comments are limited to 200 words.

<http://www.crawfordcountyavalanche.com>

Historically Speaking



The above picture was taken in DeWard sometime in the late teens or early 20s. The man on the far left is my uncle, Tom McGuire, the father of my cousin Bernie McGuire, whom I obtained the photo from. Bernie is a retired Flint Fireman and lives in Flushing. My 95-year-old mother was unable to identify the others; (My mother is Tom McGuire's sister-in-law.)

Pat (McGuire) Neering
Flushing

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BRIEFS

Kids weekly support group to begin

"Keeping Kids Safe," a weekly support group for school-age children, will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 8, from 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. This is a group for school age children who have witnessed or experienced violence. Children will learn to better recognize and express their feelings. The group will also focus on safety. For more information, call Carrie at River House, Inc. at 989-348-3169.

Legion Auxillary to hold meeting

The January meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Post #106 will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 9, at the American Legion Hall, in Grayling.

Community calendar available online

The Crawford County Avalanche has a community calendar on their new web site. To view area happenings, or to be considered for publication of your event, go to crawfordcountyavalanche.com, click on community and go to the community calendar.

CCEDP circulates petition in support of theme park project

The Crawford County Economic Development Partnership (CCEDP) is circulating a petition in support of the sale of 1,800 acres in Grayling Township, Crawford County, Michigan, from the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources, to Axiom Entertainment.

This support is contingent upon all aspects of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Letter of Intent being met, including final financing for the entire project being in place at the time of the land transaction.

This project will meet stringent environmental requirements, bring a projected injection of \$161,000,000 into the regional economy and will improve the local economy during the 30 - 36 month construction phase.

Main Street America will be a

major catalyst leading to further economic development regionally; additional opportunities and higher paying career choices will result.

Main Street America will bring a real economic boost to an area whose poverty level exceeds 12 percent and whose median household income is \$32,000. This project will bring 2,000 jobs, 700 of which will be full-time.

Interested parties may sign the petition at the following locations: CCEDP-Chamber of Commerce offices at 213 James St.; Ramada Inn at 2650 South I-75 Business Loop; Flowers by Josie / Thanks a Latte at 212 Michigan Ave., or interested parties may contact any CCEDP Board Member.

For more information, contact Gaila Gilliland at the CCEDP office at 348-9030 or by e-mail at gailag@i2k.com.

Tax Talk Today gives a head start on tax filing season

The 2008 filing season is right around the corner. The IRS's January Tax Talk Today (TTT) program, "Getting Ready for the Filing Season 2008: Part 2 (Businesses)," on Tuesday, Jan. 8, at 2 p.m. will give tax professionals, their clients, and small business owners a head start.

This annual program picks up where the December program ended ("Getting Ready for the Filing Season 2008: Part 1 (Individuals)"). The show's panel of experts will discuss business tax return issues for small businesses and self-employed taxpayers, recent tax law changes and updates for the 2007 tax year, IRS regulations, business credits, common errors and processing issues which impact filing business returns for the 2007 tax year.

Sponsored by the IRS, Tax Talk Today is a free, live, monthly interactive Web cast aimed at educating tax professionals, and their business clients, on the most contemporary and complex tax issues. They are encouraged to watch and submit questions. Tax professionals in need of continuing education credits (CECs) are eligible to receive one CEC by viewing the January 8th Web cast. Click on Continuing Education, at the TTT Web site, for more information.

The one-hour live programs begin at 2 p.m. ET, on the sec-

ond Tuesday of each month, except April and August. In addition to viewing live Web casts and archived programs, listening to audio podcasts and reading show transcripts, subscribers can order audio and video recordings from the Tax Talk Today Web site.

To access the Web cast at no charge, viewers can register online at www.TaxTalkToday.tv. Tax Talk Today can be viewed with Windows Media Player and Real Player. Both players are free software that may already be installed on your computer. If not, click the link for Installing System Software to view Internet Broadcast under "How to View."

If you missed the program, the December 11 Web cast is accessible for viewing via archive for 12 months at Tax Talk Today. A transcript of the show is also available, as well as an audio podcast. For more information on future programs, go to the TTT Web site and select Upcoming Programs.

To learn about the availability of IRS products and services, subscribe to IRS's e-News for Small Businesses. To see a representative sample and to start a free subscription to e-News, just go to IRS.gov at <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/content/0,,id=154826,00.html>, type in your e-mail address and submit.

Resolve to vote in state's primary election on Jan. 15

Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land urges all registered voters to take part in the state's presidential primary election on Jan. 15, 2008, and let their voices be heard.

Anyone who registered to vote in Michigan by Dec. 17 may participate. No additional registration is necessary for this primary.

At the polls, voters will be required to state in writing which ballot they wish to receive—Republican or Democratic. On absentee ballot applications, they must check a box to request the desired ballot. Voters who only wish to participate in one of the special elections taking place in 43 of Michigan's counties on Jan. 15, may do so by asking for a "no party declaration" ballot, which does not include presidential candidates.

There is no party membership requirement to participate in the primary and voting a particular ballot does not register the voter as a member of that party.

Some presidential candidates voluntarily withdrew their names from the Democratic ballot. No Republican candidates opted out and all are listed on that party's ballot. On either ballot, a voter may vote "Uncommitted" rather than for any listed candidate.

Michigan's voter ID law is in effect. Properly registered voters that do not bring acceptable ID, such as a Michigan driver's license, personal ID card or other current ID document, need only sign an affidavit stating they do not have ID to obtain a ballot.

As a registered voter, you may obtain an absentee voter ballot if you are: age 60 years old or older, physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another, expecting to be out of town on election day, in jail awaiting arraignment or trial, unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons or appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside your precinct of residence.

You must request an absentee voter ballot by mailing the application offered online at www.Michigan.gov/vote, a letter, a postcard, or a pre-printed application form obtained from your local clerk's office. Your request must contain one of the six statutory reasons stated above and your signature.

For the Jan. 15 election, you must indicate whether you wish to receive a Democratic or Republican ballot. Either check the box provided on the application form or write out the party name in your letter or postcard.

Voters who only wish to par-

ticipate in a Jan. 15 local special election, and not the primary, may do so by asking for a "no party declaration" ballot that does not include presidential candidates.

To receive an absentee ballot by mail, you must submit an absentee ballot application to your township or city clerk by 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008. You also have until 4 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14, to vote in person in your clerk's office. If emergency circumstances exist, the deadline for absentee voting may be extended up until 4 p.m. on Election Day.

In 1912, legislation creating the first presidential primary in Michigan was enacted. The presidential primary law was repealed in 1931 and then reestablished in 1972. Legislators repealed the primary again in 1983 and restored it in 1988. In 2003, the Legislature voted to cancel the presidential primary scheduled for 2004 because circumstances rendered it unnecessary to either party's nomination process.

The record for the most votes garnered by a candidate in a single Michigan presidential primary election, which was 809,239, was set by Democrat George Wallace on May 16, 1972—the day after Wallace was shot and seriously wounded in an assassination attempt. The highest number of votes ever received by a Republican candidate in a presidential primary was 690,180 by then-president Gerald Ford in 1976.

The record for the most voters participating in a single presidential primary in Michigan was set in 1972, when 1,934,357 votes were recorded.

The smallest margin of victory in a Michigan presidential primary occurred in 1976 when Jimmy Carter edged fellow Democrat Morris Udall 307,559 to 305,134, a difference of 2,425 votes.

Automotive icon Henry Ford won the state's Republican presidential primary in 1916 and its Democratic presidential primary in 1924.

Entrepreneur Donald Trump was the only candidate that qualified to appear on Michigan's 2000 presidential primary ballot as a Reform Party candidate. He received 2,164 votes.

The Jan. 15, 2008 election is only the 11th state-sponsored presidential primary in Michigan history.

For additional information regarding the Jan. 15 primary, including a map to their local polling place, voters may visit the Michigan Voter Information Center at www.Michigan.gov/vote.

RAFFLE WINNERS

Grayling Youth Booster Club

The 50/50 raffle winners for Dec. 30 of \$25 each: Mary Callewaert, Dave Golinick and Jeanne Thompson.

Grayling Lions Club

The winner of the Grayling Lions Club Lucky 13 raffle for Dec. 28 of \$100 is Jason McLeon.

JOIN WEIGHT WATCHERS. RIGHT HERE. RIGHT NOW.

Michelson Memorial United Methodist Church
400 Michigan Avenue - Grayling

Tuesday, January 8th, 2008
5:30 p.m. Weigh-in
6:00 p.m. Meeting

Minimum number required to join for series to resume and all members required to pay for the full series on January 8th
For more information, call: 800-848-3372

THE OLE BARN Daily Drink & Dinner Specials

Band - Friday & Saturday Jan. 4 & 5
"SMOKEY RIDGE"

6811 M-72 West, Grayling
989-344-1760 • OPEN 2PM DAILY

Crawford County Transportation Authority

Weekday Scheduled Services to:

FREDERIC & MAPLE FOREST

Leaves Grayling 5:45 a.m.
Leaves Grayling 6:45 a.m.
Leaves Grayling 9:00 a.m.
Leaves Grayling 11:30 a.m.
Leaves Grayling 1:15 p.m.
Leaves Grayling 3:30 p.m.
Leaves Grayling 5:00 p.m.

LOVELLS

Leaves Grayling 9:00 a.m.
Leaves Grayling 11:30 a.m.
Leaves Grayling 1:30 p.m.
Leaves Grayling 3:30 p.m.
Leaves Grayling 5:00 p.m.

M-72 EAST

Leaves Grayling 6:00 a.m.
Leaves Grayling 7:00 a.m.
Leaves Grayling 9:00 a.m.
Leaves Grayling 11:30 a.m.
Leaves Grayling 1:30 p.m.
Leaves Grayling 3:30 p.m.
Leaves Grayling 5:00 p.m.

BEAVER CREEK & ROSCOMMON

Leaves Grayling 7:30 a.m.
Leaves Grayling 11:00 a.m.
Leaves Grayling 1:00 p.m.
Leaves Grayling 2:15 p.m.
Leaves Grayling 4:30 p.m.

*The 1:00 p.m. south run does not go all the way into Roscommon.

To request weekday demand response services call dispatch @ 348-5409

M-72 WEST
Demand response service calls worked in between other runs

RURAL HEALTH INITIATIVE TRIPS

These trips are designed to provide medical services to rural areas that do not have a regular medical transportation service.

For more information on these trips, please call the Crawford County Commission on Aging at 348-7123.

SPECIAL EVENT TRIPS*: Scheduled For January 2008

Trip #1

Tuesday, January 8, 2008

Turtle Creek Casino - Williamsburg

Departing at 8:30 am.

Approximate arrival - Grayling 4:00 pm.

Trip organized by the Crawford County Commission on Aging

Contact Andrea @ 348-7123 to reserve a seat

*Special event trips require: (1) a minimum of twenty-two passengers; and (2) that passengers less than 18 years of age be accompanied by a responsible adult.

To reserve seats or request information concerning special event trips call Julee @ 348-8215

COMMUNITY EVENT SERVICES:

Service schedules may be modified to meet increased demand during special community events. Such as the Milltown Festival

To request information concerning expanded services call Richard @ 348-4101

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Painlessly with No Willpower or Cravings.

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2 1/2 hours
Only \$49.00 complete
(Doors open 30 min before start)
NO RESERVATION REQUIRED
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Cash, Personal Check, Visa/MC

GRAYLING Thurs, Jan 24th
Days Inn 2556 I-75 Business Loop
GAYLORD Wed. Jan. 23rd
Hampton Inn
Norton 7:00 pm

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I lost over 100 lbs and Quit Smoking with this program. Join me at the seminar and hear how.

The Bible Speaks

Why Jesus Came?

Why did our Lord Jesus Christ leave Heaven and come to earth and take a human body?

1. He came to confirm God's promises made to the fathers in the Old Testament. (Rom. 15:8,9). He came to fulfill the promises of the gospel beginning in Genesis 3:15. He confirmed the promise of Isaiah 7:14 that the Messiah would be born of a virgin and His name would be called "Immanuel" which means God with us. Jesus literally fulfilled the Old Testament promises proving He is the Christ.

2. Jesus came to reveal God the Father to us. "18No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." (John 1:18). When Philip asked Jesus to show the Father, Jesus answered in John 14:9: "he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?" The Jews understood that Jesus was declaring equality with the Father in John 10:30,31: "I and my Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him." Jesus taught us to pray: "Our Father which are in heaven, Hallowed be thy

name." 3. Jesus came to be a faithful high priest. "17Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted." (Heb. 2:17,18). "15For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." (Heb 4:15).

4. Jesus came to be our Savior by shedding His own blood on the cross of Calvary as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. "Even as the Son of man came...to give his life a ransom for many." (Matt. 20:28). "5And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin." (1 John 3:5). "14And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world." 1 John 4:14).

5. Jesus came to destroy the works of the Devil. "14Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy

him that had the power of death, that is, the devil." (Heb 2:14). This final destruction will be completed as prophesied in Revelation 20:10.

6. Jesus came to give us a perfect example of how to live. As Peter said in 1 Peter 2:21,22: "21For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." "6He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." (1 John 2:6).

7. Jesus came to fulfill His three-fold office of Prophet, Priest, and King. We see these offices together in Revelation 1:5: "5And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, (Prophet) and the first begotten of the dead, (Priest) and the prince of the kings of the earth.(King) Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood." At His second coming to earth He will fulfill the name written on his vesture and thigh, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." (Rev. 19:16). Pastor "B"

"The Bible Speaks is a paid advertisement and does not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Crawford County Avalanche.

Ray, Trudgeon wed



Patricia Ray and Philip Trudgeon

Patricia Ray and Philip Trudgeon were united in marriage on December 20, on the Caribbean Island of Jamaica, with a private ceremony on the beach.

The bride is the daughter of

the late Donald Kloeckner and Doris Kloeckner of Newaygo.

The groom is the son of Raymond and Agnes Trudgeon of Grayling.

The couple will reside in East Lansing.

SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS

Join us for a meal, either at noon or 5 p.m. weekdays, except Friday, when there is no evening meal. Please try to call for reservations at (989) 348-7123 or 1-888-355-4500, so that we know how many to plan for.

This week's menu (lunch/dinner) and activities:

Friday, Jan. 4 - Lunch - pork roast, baked potato, mixed vegetables and applesauce. No dinner. 10 a.m. Tone and Tubes, 1 p.m. Pantry Bingo.

Monday, Jan. 7 - Lunch - stuffed cabbage, peas, boiled potatoes and peaches. Dinner - baked fish, broccoli, O'Brien potatoes and mandarin oranges. 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. Back on Duty, 1 p.m. Bridge, 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. hearing clinic, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. SPLASH at Mercy Rehab.

Tuesday, Jan. 8 - Lunch - hot roast beef sandwich, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrots and grapes. Dinner - baked chicken, oven roasted potatoes, smothered squash, oranges and grapefruit. 8:30 a.m. casino trip, 10 a.m. Tone and Tubes and Bible Study, 12:45 p.m. Euchre, 1 p.m. Sit and Be Fit, 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. blood pressure/sugar checks, 5:30 p.m. game night, 6:30 p.m. Housing Commission Board Meeting.

Wednesday, Jan. 9 - Lunch - teriyaki chicken, California blend vegetables, tossed salad and pineapple. Birthday Dinner - baked ham, Brussels sprouts, au gratin potatoes, applesauce, cake and ice cream. 9:30 a.m. commodities, 10 a.m. line dancing, 1 p.m. Kings and Queens, 2 p.m. pool league, 11:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. rummage sale, 5 p.m. Birthday Dinner, 5:30 p.m. Cardio.

Thursday, Jan. 10 - Lunch - roast turkey with dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans and pears. Dinner - meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn and mixed fruit. 10 a.m. craft class, 12 p.m. Kiwanis meeting, 5 p.m. dinner and discussion with director, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. SPLASH at Mercy Rehab.

The Crawford County Commission on Aging's Senior Center is located at 308 Lawndale, behind Burger King in Grayling. Walk-ins are welcome.

RANGE FIRING

Range firing scheduled for the period of Jan. 3 - Jan. 10, 2008 is as follows:

The Range 40 Complex, Air to Ground, located north of County Rd. 612, east of Guthrie Lake, south of Old State Rd. 618, and west of County Rd. P97 (Twin Bridge Rd.) will be conducting live and inert bombing operations by the Air National Guard during Jan. 3 - 10.

Heavy weapons range firing is scheduled from sunrise until three hours after sunset. Due to mobilizations or critical training requirements, the Post Commander may authorize mission-firing requirements beyond this time. This firing schedule is subject to change without notice to the public.

Contact the Grayling Department of Natural Resources for the areas closed for hunting within the boundaries of the installation. Grayling DNR telephone number: 989 348-6371. For further information call 989-344-6320.

Church Directory

sponsored by the following community minded individuals and businesses

GRAYLING GLASS COMPANY

Ken & Carol Taskey
503 McClellan • Grayling
348-6641

DON KERNSTOCK

LICENSED BUILDER
New Home Construction
Remodeling • Garages
348-8945 • Grayling

GRAYLING BIG BOY

RESTAURANT
Stop in after church for brunch
348-7654

JANSEN INSURANCE

AGENCY, INC.
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237D S. I-75 BL • Grayling

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Garage Doors-Windows
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201 James • Grayling

COMFORT CENTER

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The Rest is Up to You!"
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605 Huron • Grayling

MCDONALD'S RESTAURANT

"McDonald's and You"
Breakfast served until
11 a.m. on Sundays
I-75 Bus. Loop Grayling,
Ph. 348-2269

LIBRARY NEWS

The Crawford County Library will facilitate donations to soldier units that the library adopted in Fort Liberty, Iraq. The soldiers are requesting prepackaged, easy to open and prepare food products, such as beef jerky, microwave popcorn, zip-

locked precooked meat (no pork) and pouch type meals. Let's not forget to send cards and letters. Drop your donations off at any of the Crawford County Library branches, or for more information, call Devereaux Memorial Library at 989-348-9214.

HONORS

Lake Superior State University

Lake Superior State University announced that Elaina Murray, a senior at Grayling High School, has been awarded the Board of

Trustees Distinguished Scholarship, commencing for the Fall 2008 semester. Elaina will major in Bio Chemistry and is the daughter of Amanda and Bruce Murray.

Card of Thanks

I would like to thank the following: Mercy Hospice of Grayling, Neile, Cindy Lou, Jennie and all of the other people at hospice. I don't want to miss anyone who helped us through a real difficult time. To Grayling Nursing Care, Hilltop Manor of Roscommon, Mercy Hospice of Traverse City, Sorenson-Lockwood Funeral Home, and to my son, Robert Shepherd, who took his mother home to take care of her until she passed, bless you Bob and Gen. I would also like to thank Pastor Barnett, for

it made no difference where Helen was, he was there for her, thank you.

Anyone who took the time to know Helen, knew she made life a little bit brighter. I would also like to thank all my friends who took time to send cards to the family.

Helen is in a much better place now. She is no longer trapped in a body that didn't work.

Lloyd Crawford, Terry, Gary, Bob, Dave Shepherd and Becky Crawford

Year's End & Anniversary BLOWOUT!

MERLE NORMAN COSMETICS

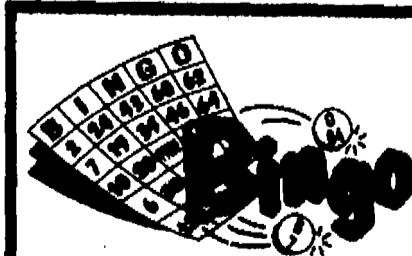
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(989) 348-7466

MERLE NORMAN



Sunday - 1:00 pm
Grayling Eagles
Auxiliary #3465

Christian Science Society
209 First St. • Suite 103 • Grayling
(989) 732-7001
Sunday Service: 10:30 am
April through October
2nd & 4th Wednesday: 7 pm
Sunday School: 10:30 am

Michigan Memorial United Methodist Church
Pastor: Dr. William A. Camp
400 Michigan Ave. • 348-2974
Website: www.mmc-umc.org
Barnes Pro
Traditional Service: 9:00 am
Coffee Hour: 10:00 am
Sunday School: 10:30 am
Adult Sunday School: 10:30 am
Prayer and Worship Service: 11 am
(Children Available)

Seventh Day Adventist
Pastor David Ferguson
Phone: 989-348-1999
Services held Saturday at
Camp Asahie off M-72 East
(1st building on right inside camp)
Saturday Church Service: 9:30 am
Sunday Sabbath School: 10:30 am
Tuesday Prayer Meeting: 7 pm

Lovell Community Chapel
(Bible Based & non-denominational)
Pastor Larry Hinkley
Associate Pastor Tom Faince
8133 Bald Hill Rd. • Lovell
989-348-2701
Sunday School (youth & adult): 10 am
Morning Worship: 11 am
Wed Prayer & Bible Study: 7-8 pm

Free Methodist
Rick Seaver - Pastor
6652 (M-72 W.) • 348-9093
Early Service: 8:30 am
Sunday School: 10 am
Morning Service: 11 am
Prayer Meeting (Wednesday): 7 pm

Evangelical United Church of Christ
3474 West Park Road, (Lansing)
Sunday Worship: 11 am
Adult and Youth: Sunday School: 9:30 am

Evangelical Baptist
Pastor Edna Wegman 348-6411
1841 Hartwick Falls Rd. (1/4 mile west of I-75)
Sunday School: 9:45 am
Morning Worship: 11 am
Evening Worship: 7 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Grayling Assembly of God
Pastor Gary Wegman
701 S. I-75 Business Loop
Farmington 348-7466
Sunday School: 9:30 am
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Evening Service: 7 pm
Family Night Adult Youth Children (Wed): 7 pm

The Church of Christ with the Blank Message
7662 Kelly Ave., Pontiac
Sunday Worship: 10 am

Westminster Presbyterian Church
(West of South Macmillan Conference Center)
Worship with us in a beautiful outdoor chapel
(989) 821-9474
Sunday Worship: 11 am

First Baptist Church of Pontiac
Pastor Bob Hinkley
Sunday School: 9:45 am
Morning Worship: 11 am
Evening Service: 7 pm
Family Night & Bible Study: 7 pm

St. Martin Lutheran Church
510 South St.
Roscommon

Unity Church of Unity North
Betsy Dickinson, Minister
Virtual Church on Email Bible Study
available at times@unitynorth.org

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
President David Stephenson
600 North Elm Street, Grayling
Sacrament: 10 am
Sunday School: 11 am
Primary: 11 am
Priesthood: 12 noon
Relief Society: 12 noon

Brethren Bible Tabernacle
Pastor Patrick Pearle, 348-1278
501 E. Michigan Ave., Grayling
Sunday School: 10 am
Sunday Service, Children's Church and Youth Service: 11 am
Sunday Evening Service: 7 pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 7 pm
(various times available)

St. John Lutheran (ELCA)
710 Spruce Street
348-5224
Sunday School: 9:15 am
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

Community of Christ
Pastor Ann Dery
North Down River Rd. at
1629 Olsen Rd. • 348-9753
Church School: 9:45 am
Prayer Meeting: 11 am
Midweek Service Prayer: 7 pm

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Community
Robert W. Nalley, J.V., Pastor
Parish Office: 707 Spruce • 348-7657
Sunday Evening Masses: 4:30 pm
Sunday Masses: 10:00 am

St. Francis Episcopal
177 West Rogers St.
Grayling, MI 49735
Morning Prayer: 8:30 am
Prayer: 9:30 am
Sunday Holy Eucharist: 8:30 & 10:30 am

Restoration Life Center
Pastor Bill & Debbie Mann
Sunday Service: 10:30 am
Mid Week Services (Wed): 7:00 p.m.
Mail: 2640 M-72 West Grayling, MI 49738
Phone: 989-348-1000
E-mail: restorationlife@gmail.com

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)
(989) 348-3921
180 N. I-75 Bus. Loop
Sunday Morning Worship Service: 7 pm
Sunday Evening Service: 10:30 am

Sunday School: 9:15 am
Catholic Register Church
Dr. Robert Edwards, Pastor
M-72 West
Sunday School: 9:45 am
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Evening Worship: 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm
Prayer & Awana Club (Wed.): 7 pm

Church of Christ
Old US-27 at Skyline Rd. • 275-8615
In Search of the Lord's Way
Sunday Mornings on TV 29 & 8: 7:30 am
Sunday Church: 10 am
Sunday Worship: 11 am
Sunday Evening: 6 pm
1st Sunday Evening of every month there is no service.
Mid-Week Bible Study (Wed): 7 pm

Abundant Life Tabernacle
Pastor Lake Stender
211 S. Michigan St. • 348-5325
Sunday School: 10 am
Sunday Worship: 11 am & 6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening: 7 pm

Grayling Baptist Church
Affiliated with S.B.C.
Pastor John Scott
705 Michigan St. • Grayling • 348-2557
Sunday School: 9:45 am
Morning Worship: 11 am
Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday Service: 7 pm

Bear Lake Christian
Pastor David Rosenberg
Associate Pastor Scott Hoffer
M-72 & East Bear Lake Rd.
Sunday Church Service: 10 am - 6:30 pm
Sunday School: 9 am
Bible Study (Wed.): 7 pm
Youth Group 2nd & 4th Wed.: 6:30 pm

Lutheran Baptist
Pastor James Durfee
2247 Durfee Lane
Sunday School: 10 am
Sunday Morning Worship: 11 am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6 pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 pm

Church Alive Church of God
Pastor David Butler
506 North Birch St., Kalkaska
(231) 258-3448
Sunday School: 10 am
Worship Service: 11 am & 6 pm
Family Training Hour and Prayer (Wednesday): 7 pm

St. Martin Ex. Lutheran (WELS)
Deanna Carter - Pastor
For information call 989-821-6013
The Roscommon Community Center
510 South St., Roscommon, MI
New phone number 275-3070

Friendship Church
A Christian Reformed Ministry
Rev. Rick Overy, Pastor
415 Ohio North, Gaylord
Sunday School: 9 am
Morning Worship: 10 am
Tue. Women's Bible Study: 10 am
Wed. Men's Bible Study: 12 noon

MERLE NORMAN

SPORTS & RECREATION

GMS BASKETBALL

Grayling Middle School's 8th grade "green" boys basketball team recently defeated Elk Rapids, Traverse City, St. Elizabeth, and Boyne City to improve the squad's season record to 6-0.

The Vikings won 48-42 in a home game vs. the Elk Rapids Elks on Thursday, Dec. 6.

"The boys played really well. I was happy with our defense. We went into our full court press and forced some turnovers," Coach Rocky Tobin said. "I was pleased with everyone's effort. I

believe this was the first time these boys have beaten Elk Rapids, so they were pretty happy with the win."

Zane Tobin had 19 points for the Vikings. Steven Enos had 9 points, David Bergan had 8, and Griffin Dean had 6. Riley Zigila, Thomas Burrell, Travis Schreiber, and Xavier Lindsey each scored 2 points.

Grayling defeated St. Elizabeth 37-31 at Traverse City on Monday, Dec. 10.

Tobin scored 15 points for GMS and Bergan finished with

10 points. Enos scored 8 points and Dean had 4 points.

"We played well on defense, but we didn't show much patience on offense. They ran a zone against us and it was the first time the boys had seen a zone. We need to be more patient and work the ball around to get better looks at the basket when we play against a zone," Coach Tobin said. "We lost to them twice last year, so it was a good win for us."

The Vikings won their sixth contest of the year with a 46-29

victory vs. Boyne City at GMS on Tuesday, Dec. 11.

"The boys did a great job on our full court press and also trapping the ball and forcing turnovers. They did a nice job of helping out on the defensive end of the court and I was pleased with our transition offense," Coach Tobin said. "I thought the kids in the low post did a nice job of getting the ball out to our guards so we could run."

Enos had 14 points, Bergan had 11, and Dean had 10. Tobin scored 7 points and Zigila added four points.

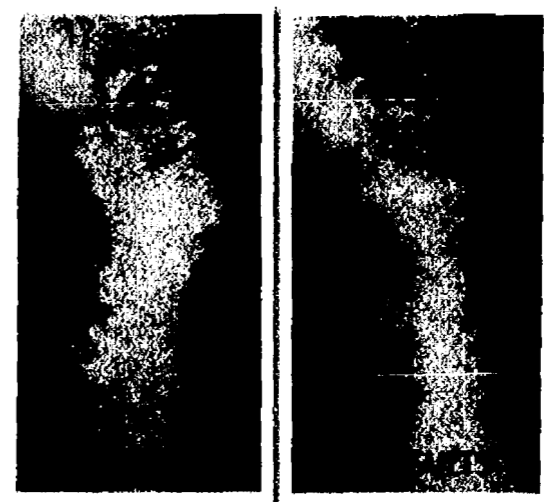
BOWLING LEAGUE

Senior Bowling
Sylvester's Sports 4 - 0
Kicking Grass 3 - 1
Grayling Pharmacy 2 - 2
Gaylord Electric 2 - 2
Bear's Den Pizza 2 - 2
Spike's 2 - 2
Flowers By Josie 1 - 3
Lone Pine 0 - 4
High Series Men: L. Wyatt, 566;
K. Harris, 534; P. Faustman, 530.
High Game Men: K. Harris, 211;
L. Wyatt, 195; J. Hipchen, 194.
High Series Women: C. Clark, 518; P. Harris, 496; C. Wyatt,

476. High Game Women: C. Clark, 201; C. Wyatt, 177; P. Harris, 172.
Recreation League
Days Inn 9 - 3
American Legion 8 - 4
Robin L. Smith CPA 8 - 4
T & T Fishing 7 - 5
Woody Girls 5.5 - 6.5
GMH-NCC 5 - 7
Grayling Nurs.Center 4.5 - 7.5
Glen's Market 1 - 11
High Series: L. Seibert, 584; M. Starks, 577; S. Johnson, 531.
High Game: M. Starks, 214; N.

Glasslee and S. Johnson, 209.
National First
Pittman Bld. 7 - 0
Corky's Karaoke 7 - 0
Spike's 7 - 0
Legion Lanes 5 - 2
Upper Lakes 2 - 5
Faustman Insurance 0 - 7
Continental Rental 0 - 7
Medicine Shoppe 0 - 7
High Series: J. Helsel, 714; T. Hulbert, 591; D. Henning, 581.
High Game: J. Helsel, 244; W. Hollis, 237; J. Helsel, 236.

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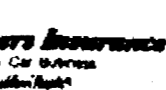
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Harley Crue makes holiday donation to shelter



The Harley Crue Motorcycle Club of Frederic donated \$500 to the River House, Inc. to make Christmas a little brighter this year for homeless families and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. The motorcycle club raised the funds through benefits and membership dues. The Harley Crue Motorcycle Club and River House, Inc. both celebrated their 20th anniversaries in 2007. Above, Gerald "Chico" Medina, a member of the Harley Crue Motorcycle Club, is pictured with Rhoda Hacker, the director of the River House Shelter, Inc.

OMH offers two new support groups

The physical and emotional difficulties resulting from cancer or stroke can change how patients, survivors, their families and others get along. Life is an adjustment for each patient and survivor, as well as anyone inter-

acting with them. Survivors often say friends and family members feel uncomfortable around them. The circle of friends they once enjoyed seems to have dwindled, and it may be difficult for the survivor to fit in social situations they formerly adapted to easily.

Otsego Memorial Hospital (OMH) is now offering new community-wide cancer and stroke support groups.

"Individuals have expressed an interest in these two areas, and we strive to meet the needs of those in the communities we serve," said Mary King, Health Education Coordinator at OMH.

"These life-changing events often affect more than just the patient," said Faith Brinkman, M.A., CCC-SLP, Speech Therapist at OMH. "Family members can feel confused, frustrated, isolated. Relationships can become strained when a family member must change roles and become the caregiver. Caregivers may become angry

and feel guilty about their feelings toward the patient or survivor."

"These support groups allow patients and survivors to help themselves and others create meaningful lives after cancer or stroke," said Brinkman. "By meeting together in a caring, cooperative environment, with survivors, family, and friends, a new sense of community is created. New goals and friendships are kindled, encouraging independence and renewing hope."

The Oncology Support Group is open to all cancer patients, survivors, families and friends. A variety of cancer and caregiver-related topics will be discussed, as desired, by the group. Participants will be able to share successes and challenges, discuss fears, ask questions of each other, and give and receive support. During the first meeting, participants brainstormed for ideas about future meetings, such as days, times, locations and topics. For more information about

the Oncology Support Group, contact the OMH Community Health Education Department, (989) 731-2913 or the OMH Oncology Clinic, (989) 731-7760.

The Stroke Support Group will enhance caregiver and survivor well-being. It can decrease or even eliminate the feelings of isolation from both parties, can introduce new friendships and perhaps replace those that may have been lost after the stroke. They provide education to promote a better understanding of living with the challenges brought on by a stroke. Participants will have the opportunity to share successes and discuss their fears, challenges and needs.

The Stroke Support Group will be held on the last Friday of each month. Facilitators are Faith Brinkman, Ali Robbins and Wendi Wing. For registration or questions, contact the OMH Rehabilitation Department at (989) 731-2472.

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Surgeon offers unique alternative to total hip replacement

Otsego Memorial Hospital (OMH) and N'Orthopedics' Dr. Louis Habryl is among the first surgeons in the country to be trained in the new Birmingham Hip Resurfacing (BHR) technique.

Rather than replacing the entire hip joint, as in a total hip replacement, hip resurfacing simply shaves and caps a few centimeters of bone within the joint.

The bone-conserving approach of the Birmingham Hip Resurfacing System preserves more of the patient's natural bone structures and stability, covering the joint's surfaces with an all-metal implant that more closely resembles a tooth cap than a hip implant.

This approach reduces the post-operative risks of dislocation and inaccurate leg length, and because the all-metal implant is made from tough, smooth cobalt chrome, it has the potential to last longer than traditional hip implants.

"This is one of the most exciting procedures I've seen in years," said Habryl.

"I see hip resurfacing as the ideal solution for many of my young, active patients who suffer from hip pain. As my patients are getting younger and younger, and are staying physically active much later in life, I've needed an alternative to total hip replacement that accommodates their age and lifestyle. The Birmingham Hip Resurfacing System is that alternative," said Habryl.

The Birmingham Hip implant is intended for patients suffering from hip pain due to osteoarthritis (wear and tear arthritis), dysplasia (hip that has a deformity from birth), or avascular necrosis (results when reduced blood circulation starves the bones that form the hip joint), and for whom total hip replacement may not be appropriate, due to their increased level of physical activity. For this reason, most surgeons feel it will be ideal for patients under age 65 with active lifestyles.

While the BHR implant closely matches the size of a patient's natural femoral head (hip ball), it is substantially larger than the femoral head of a traditional total hip replacement implant.

This increased size translates to greater stability in the new joint, and it decreases the chance of dislocation of the implant after surgery.

Dislocation is one of the leading causes of implant failure after total hip replacement.

Total hip replacement involves the removal of the entire femoral head and neck.

The Birmingham Hip resurfacing technique, however, leaves the head and neck. It is this neck length and angle that determines the natural length of a patient's leg after surgery, and since it is not removed and replaced with an artificial device during the resurfacing procedure, there is a greater likelihood of maintaining accurate leg length.

The Birmingham Hip implant is an all-metal ball and socket joint. Traditional hip replacements use a metal ball and a plastic socket.

As would be assumed, this plastic socket wears down over time, and may need to be replaced surgically. In fact, it is one of the leading causes of follow-up surgeries. All-metal total hip replacements can possibly reduce joint wear by 97 percent compared to total hip implants containing these plastic sockets.

For more information about orthopedic procedures at OMH, contact Dr. Louis Habryl, N'Orthopedics in Gaylord, (989) 732-1753.

Card of Thanks

On behalf of the families and children who received toys, I would like to say thank you to the following businesses and individuals: Curves for Women and members, Glen's Market, The Ice House Quilt Shop, Goodale's Bakery, Northland Area Federal Credit Union, Chemical Bank, Citizens Bank, Grayling Regional Chamber of Commerce, Rite Aid, Cornell Insurance Agency, Commission on Aging, Cheerful Givers, Grayling Eagles Auxiliary, Crawford County Sheriff Department, Dollar General, AAA office, J. Dap Company, North Central Area Credit Union, Michelson MUM Church members, Mt. Hope Lutheran

OBITUARIES

David J. Pomeroy
May 5, 1951 - Dec. 30, 2007
David J. Pomeroy, 56, of Grayling, passed away on December 30, 2007.

He was born in Manistee, on May 5, 1951, to the late Edward and Esther (Stepniewski) Pomeroy.

He was the husband of Sally Pomeroy, they were married on April 1, 2003 in Roscommon.

He retired from Camp Shawono, where he was a social worker.

He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church Grayling and the Grayling War Games Club, where he was known as "Sgt. Pomeroy." He was a military historian, a gun collector and he enjoyed deer hunting. He loved being a Grandpa.

He is survived by daughters: Mary Pomeroy-Kowalski of Grayling, Alexandria Pomeroy of Grayling, Cheyanna (Matt) Losey of Ill.; son, Jonathan Gishler of Roscommon; grandchildren: Brandon, Katie, Emily, Skylinn, Mabel and Ruth; brother, Thomas (Pam) Pomeroy of Muskegon; sisters, Rosemary (Dick) Swiderski and Beth Pomeroy, both of Manistee; and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held on

Wednesday, January 2, from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., at Sorenson-Lockwood Funeral Home. A wake service was held at Sorenson-Lockwood Funeral Home on January 2, at 6 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Thursday, January 3, at 1 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Grayling, with Father Robert Nalley officiating. Visitation will be held at 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Graveside Services will be held at Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Manistee.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Mercy Hospital, Intensive Care Unit 1100 Michigan Ave., Grayling, MI 49738.

Condolences may be sent to www.sorensonlockwood.com. Arrangements made by Sorenson-Lockwood Funeral Home.

Virginia Wellman

Virginia Wellman, 72, of Blue Lake Township, Kalkaska County, passed away on December 24, 2007. A funeral was held on December 28. Interment will be at Oakwood Cemetery in the spring. Arrangements by Sorenson-Lockwood Funeral Home.

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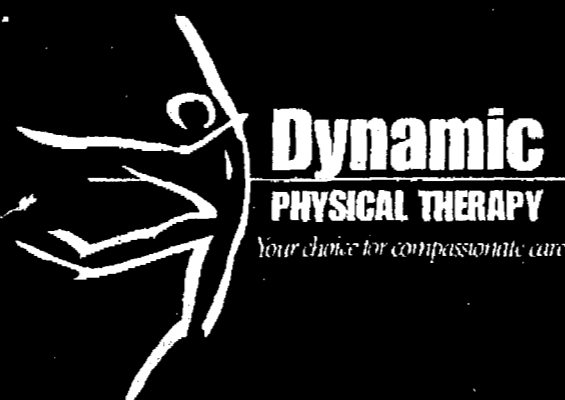
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Ice fishing is matter of local tradition

Continued from Page 1A
sufficiently thick before venturing out onto the lake.

"I like a good three to four inches before I feel comfortable," said Miles.

It's easy enough to test the thickness of the ice with an auger or drill, but when unsure, there are plenty of people in the area who are happy to help.

"If you can talk to someone in the area who knows the ice conditions, that's the safest thing," said Millikin, who noted that professionals at Skip's and other sporting goods shops are a great source of information about the ice conditions at most popular fishing lakes.

On questionable ice, some easy safety procedures are also recommended. Millikin recommends bringing a boat cushion style flotation device out onto the ice. It will keep a fisherman buoyant in the case of an emergency, and it also makes for a good seat.

"It's a really small and easy thing to carry, so it doesn't get in the way," said Millikin.

Both experts emphasized that, above all, it is important to use common sense on the ice. Paying attention to one's surroundings and the conditions are essential.

Miles added that adventurous fishermen who insist on hitting the ice in the very early season will often carry ice picks with them on the lake. They can use these to help pull themselves onto the ice should they fall through. At this time of year, however, there is really very little risk of breaking through the ice.

"The lakes are usually safe

enough to walk on now," said Millikin.

Choosing Your Gear

Once you get out onto the ice, it's important to have the right equipment. First, remember that persons over age 16 need to have a fishing license. This can be picked up at most sporting goods stores.

Spending hours on the ice can also get very cold. Miles recommends bringing some kind of portable heat source. A fish finder device will also help to make the experience much easier.

Beyond these basic tips, it's a good idea to talk to a friend or a representative at a local sporting goods store to find out which gear is best suited to your style and level of expertise.

Millikin estimates that it would cost no more than \$20-25 to buy the basic equipment to get started.

"It's still a fairly inexpensive sport ... and it can be full family enjoyed," said Millikin.

Local Tradition

Local ice fishing is dominated by the local community, as the frigid sport doesn't make for much of a tourist draw. Grayling Visitor's Bureau Director Ilene Geiss-Wilson reports that tourists, who are drawn to Crawford County's rivers and lakes during the summer, tend not to venture out during the winter.

"I think ice fishing is more of a specialty thing than lake or river fishing is," said Geiss-Wilson.

Miles also noted that his motel doesn't see too many out of town fishermen travelling to the area.

"It's a very small percentage

of my business," said Miles.

Since quality ice fishing is accessible throughout the state, people tend to stay in their own local areas. Thus, popular Crawford County lakes, such as Margrethe, tend to be populated by members of the local community and fishermen from nearby communities.

Nonetheless, fishermen are willing to make more of a trek when they catch words of something good going on elsewhere. Missaukee County resident Pete VandenBos recently visited Lake Margrethe with friends and family. He was here in pursuit of walleye. For him, just like many living in the Crawford County area, ice fishing is a matter of family tradition.

"My grandpa, my dad - they took me fishing when I was a little kid," said VandenBos.

Millikin agreed that ice fishing brings local families together.

"Definitely it's an old family tradition and it's still here," said Millikin.

The Time to Fish Is Now

"We're in that prime time of what we call first ice," said Millikin.

This is the first part of the winter when the ice is solid enough to walk on.

"The fishing is usually phenomenal (this) time of year," said Millikin.

For those who have a little patience and a tolerance for the cold, ice fishing can be a very rewarding pursuit.

"To me, it's just a point of relaxation," said Miles.

"There's nothing better than just sitting on your sled fishing for blue gills ... it's a release for me."

Snowmobilers turned off by erratic snow conditions, slow economy

Continued from Page 1A

"It's about the money," said Filley.

A bad situation was made worse by warm weather during Christmas week, which reduced many of the trails in Crawford County to mush. This served to keep even the local enthusiasts off Crawford County trails.

Ilene Geiss-Wilson, director of the Grayling Visitor's Bureau, agreed that recent weather conditions are problematic, with bad weather during Christmas week causing an additional dent during a crucial time for tourist activity.

However, Geiss-Wilson said that it is far too early to dismiss this season as a total loss. She noted that snowmobile traffic is always lower right before Christmas.

"The few weeks before Christmas are not good because people are shopping or with their families," said Geiss-Wilson.

She suggested that a change in weather could make a big difference. With the heavy snowfall that occurred at the end of last week, there is still a possibility that this snowmobile season will get back on track.

"It definitely helped," said Filley, who noted that the trails were seeing solid traffic on Saturday and Sunday.

Nonetheless, he said that snowmobile activity last weekend was still less than he might have hoped.

"It's up from what it was, but it's nowhere near what it used to be," said Filley.

According to Geiss-Wilson,

snowmobile traffic during the rest of this month and in February will be the true measure of this season's success. She stressed that if the trail conditions are right, true snowmobile enthusiasts will make the effort to visit Crawford County, regardless of cost.

"If we have snow, people are going to be up here like mad," said Geiss-Wilson.

She added that the recent string of bad winters probably will not discourage snowmobilers from hitting the trails this season. If anything, it will make them even more eager to get on their sleds.

"If we had a good season, it would be beneficial ... they're really anxious to ride because they haven't really had an opportunity to do so," said Geiss-Wilson.

Local girl gets a trim for Locks of Love

Continued from Page 1A

such as cancer are often deadly, the hair loss makes the ordeal even worse for kids. It can make them feel isolated from their peers and have devastating effects on self-esteem. Locks of Love aims to help this problem by providing top quality hair prosthetics to kids who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford them.

This mission is made possible by donations from kids like

Branch. Branch said that she has friends who have donated to the charity and she wanted to make a difference, too.

When asked if she would be able to cope with having short hair, Branch did not appear to be troubled by the proposition at all. "I'll be okay," said Branch.

She stopped by Salon Rue to have the hair removed, where she was joined by family and friends. "It makes my heart happy to

know she would do that for other little ones," said Ashley's mother, Ann Branch. Ann added that Ashley's father, Jeff, and brother, Michael, were also proud of Ashley's decision.

Ann emphasized the importance of the support the Locks for Love program provides kids.

"They can have wigs and fit in in a school setting and not feel like outcasts," said Ann.

For more information on the Locks of Love program, or to become a donor, visit www.locksforlove.org.

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Charities provide help for holidays

Continued from Page 1A

The Friends of the Crawford County Library System provided over 100 pairs of mittens, hats and scarfs to local children through its "Mitten Tree" program. In addition, the organization provided 40 pairs of infant socks to children.

Older families are more likely to have children on the way.

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From the pages of the Crawford County Avalanche

2007: Year In Review

Happy New Year!

With 2007 at an end, the Crawford County Avalanche presents its annual Year In Review.

The Year In Review includes article summaries from stories fea-

tured in 2007 Crawford County Avalanche editions.

Article summaries are listed according to the newspaper edition date in which the story appeared.

As cited in this year's Year In

Review, the Crawford County Avalanche covered a variety of issues and events in the past 12 months, including the legal dispute between the Crawford County Board of Commissioners and the

46th Circuit Trial Court, changes on the Grayling City Council, Mercy Hospital's multi-million dollar expansion project, a fatal hit and run accident, the new weight room project at Grayling High

School, a proposed \$161 million theme park called Main Street America, school board election results, an animal cruelty case in District Court, the new AuSable Valley Animal Shelter, the record-

setting 60th AuSable River Canoe Marathon, the \$1.3 million streetscape project in the City of Grayling, and more.

See Pages 2-5B for May through December.

January

— 4 —

The Matrix, a Christian-based youth center founded by Julie and David Bobenmoyer, opened in the back of the building that houses the Route 72 Autowash on M-72.

Treetops Resort in Gaylord dedicated a new downhill run called "Al's Bypass" to honor longtime ski instructor Al Wieland, who also served as a ski instructor at Hanson Hills.

Grayling native Douglas R. "Doug" Failing, a 1975 Grayling High School graduate and the son of Jim and Pat Failing, was recognized for serving as the director for the California Department of Transportation.

Students at the AuSable Primary School and Grayling Elementary School raised over \$12,000 for the Parent Teacher Organization to help fund the purchase of new playground equipment, activity nights, dances and other projects.

— 11 —

The Crawford County Board of Commissioners voted to appeal a decision made by the Michigan Court of Appeals which said Crawford and Kalkaska Counties were liable for attorney fees charged by lawyers representing the 46th Circuit Trial Court after prevailing in a legal dispute that said the counties were not obligated to pay for enhanced pension benefits and retirement health care benefits sought by the court administration.

Michigan Wood Pellet, a business which makes wood pellets used for wood pellet heating stoves as well as material used for animal bedding, began operations in the



Police investigate a fatal hit and run pedestrian-vehicle accident on M-72 West (Jan. 25 Edition)

Grayling Industrial Park in the Monarch Millwork building.

The Grayling City Council accepted a resignation from Kim Millikin, a Grayling businesswoman who was forced to vacate the position because she moved to a new home located in Grayling Township.

— 18 —

The Grayling Township Board took the final step to establish a charter township, forcing township officials to plan to provide additional services and preventing the possibility of neighboring municipalities being able to annex land.

Jackie Cass, the acting postmaster for the Grayling Post Office, was recognized by her friends, families and colleagues at a retirement party after serving the U.S. Postal Service for just over 33 years.

The Grayling City/Township Fire Department received a

\$38,000 grant from the Department of Homeland Security to help suit up firefighters, purchase equipment to investigate fires and rescue trapped emergency responders.

— 25 —

Crawford County Sheriff's Deputies sought answers to why Neil Louis Pearce, 50, of Mio, was killed while walking on M-72 West after a pedestrian-vehicle hit and run accident.

The Crawford AuSable School Board approved the first-reading for a policy change that switched the high school from operating on a semester schedule to a trimester calendar.

The Roscommon Area Community Cinema Group began filming "Sledge to Vyborgskaya," with footage taking place at Wellington Farm, USA, Prudenville Historical Museum and Craft Center Gym in Roscommon.

March

— 1 —

Ben Stancil, a Grayling High School language arts teacher, and his band "The Lonely Jones," brought home the best local album of the year award from the Jammie Awards ceremony, which was sponsored by WYCE-FM (88.1), a Grand Rapids-based public radio station that features rock, folk, blues, jazz and world musical acts.

The Crawford County Planning Commission approved plans for AuSable Ridge, a planned unit development located off of Willow Road near M-18 in South Branch Township that included sites for 90 homes and a nature preserve of 22 acres in the middle of the development to provide green-space and habitat for wildlife.

The Crawford County Board of Commissioners pledged to spend \$5,000 on decorating the county buildings and grounds for the Christmas holiday in conjunction with a Christmas decorations planning committee formed by the City of Grayling's Downtown Development Authority.

— 8 —

Avita Artesian Water, which is located in Beaver Creek Township, earned a silver medal in the best-bottled water category at the Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting Festival for water bottled under the John Deere Artesian Water private label.

Spec. Sgt. James McCloughan of the Grayling Forensic Science Laboratory received the first annual David L. Motesinger Horizon Award from the American Polygraph Association for his accomplishments in the polygraph profession involving research on a polygraph technique called the

concealed information test.

Volunteers for Wellington Farms, USA, held an Antique Roadshow dinner at the Grayling Holiday Inn for a fund-raiser for the farm park.

The 155 soldiers from the 1071st Maintenance Company, Michigan Army National Guard, Grayling, were recognized with a Freedom Salute Campaign awards ceremony held at the Grayling High School for their 15-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

— 15 —

Furniture and furnishings were removed from the Super 7 Motel by Grayling High School students and were donated to area families, the Habitat for Humanity Restore in Gaylord, and the St. Francis Thrift Store through a project coordinated by Clyde Holzbauer, a social worker at the Grayling Elementary School, Laurie Janison, the owner of Coldwell Banker Cornell Realty and developer Jim VanderLaan.

Kate DeVries completed a watercolor painting, used for the cover of a novel written by Gaylord author Bill Rogers called "Hilltown," a story about people in an advanced civilization that have developed special abilities.

Crawford County Sheriff's Deputies Conrad Niederhouse and Chase Barnett saved the life of a South Branch Township man, who had a heart attack, using an Automated External Defibrillator while they were investigating a family dispute.

— 22 —

William Roger Gidner Jr. was charged in Crawford County District Court for one count of fail-

ure to stop at the scene of an accident when at fault and resulting in a death for allegedly striking Neil Louis Pearce, who was walking on M-72 just west of the City of Grayling on Jan. 17.

Justin Davis did the illustrations for the children's book, "Where's Lardo," which was written by his cousin Jeff Howard, who lives in Chicago. The book was dedicated to Davis' brother, Ryan James Davis, 19, who died in a car accident which occurred in Crawford County with friend, Joshua Leo Mastie, 18, on Oct. 21, 2006.

The Easter Seals - Michigan, Inc. marked the 20th anniversary for the For Women Only snowmobile ride in Grayling, celebrating the fact that nearly 700 women snowmobilers have raised about \$2 million through their participation in the For Women Only ride.

— 29 —

The Crawford County Board of Commissioners shot down a proposed ordinance that would have regulated ambulance operations in the county.

Crawford AuSable School District Board recognized seniors Alexandra Mosel, Jordan Herrick, Mary Johnson, Jonathan Denton, Ashley Bindschatel, Nicholas Parkinson and Crystal Schwartz for going above and beyond their mandated community services hours, which are required to receive a diploma.

The Crawford County Economic Development Partnership Board established an endowment fund through the Community Foundation of Northeast Michigan to help fund future economic development endeavors in the community.

February

— 1 —

Lance Cpl. Joe Zelek, a member of the 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment - Bravo Co., based out of Saginaw, returned to Grayling after he was wounded in Iraq on Dec. 28. Zelek, a four year player on Grayling High School's basketball team and a member of the 2004 district championship squad, was honored for his service to the country with a jersey presentation at a home basketball game.

Wellington Farm, USA officials announced plans to host murder mystery dinner theaters, and new Halloween and Christmas programs, at the farm park's annual volunteer recognition dinner.

A Grayling team won its seventh consecutive Tip-Up Town Softball On Ice tournament championship this past weekend, posting a 4-0 record in the two-day, double elimination event held on the ice of Houghton Lake.

— 8 —

Randy Sedgwick started as Grayling Township's ordinance enforcement officer, addressing blight issues in the township such as people keeping junk, garbage, rubbish and having inoperable vehicles on their property.

The Grayling City Council appointed Dennis Robinson to fill a vacant seat on the Grayling City Council. Robinson, a consultant on the Region Seven Homeland Security Planning Board, which covers 17 counties in the northern Lower Peninsula, replaced Kim

Millikin, who resigned from serving on the city council because she moved to a home located in Grayling Township.

Crawford County officials finalized the closing documents to obtain \$400,000 in U.S. Department of Agriculture's funds for the new Animal Shelter of Crawford County facility, which was under construction on the property at the Crawford County Fairgrounds.

The Grayling Regional Chamber of Commerce held its annual Community Awards Night at the Grayling Holiday Inn. Steve Green, the commander of the American Legion Post #106, accepted the Silver Lining Award for the Legion's extensive remodeling of the club's exterior. Kim Millikin received the Chamber Ambassador of the Year Award for her work as a member of the Ambassadors Committee. Kay Cosgray was honored the 30th annual Citizen of the Year Award. Lanice Rutter was recognized as the 2006 ATHENA Award recipient. Dennis Palmer and Therese Kaiser were presented with plaques for serving six years as members on the Grayling Regional Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors.

— 15 —

Mercy Hospital Grayling opened the \$6.3 million Brasza-Pinch Family Emergency Department, the first expansion completed at the hospital since 1978, just 10 months after con-

tractors began construction on the hospital addition.

Gretchen Goeckerman, a 1999 graduate from Grayling High School and a graphic designer for Neopets, Inc., a virtual online game for kids, designed a cereal box distributed by General Mills called Neopets Island Berry Crunch.

The Crawford County United Way distributed 5,000 prescription discount cards to area residents, allowing people without prescription coverage to receive discounts at local pharmacies.

— 22 —

Grayling Elementary School fourth graders Valerie Burch and Brellynn Ross completed an independent study project, identifying a new piece of playground equipment that will be placed on the AuSable Primary School by the Parent Teacher Organization.

Kirtland Community College hired local basketball guru Ty McGregor as the new head coach of the college's mens basketball team. McGregor, a 1990 graduate of Mio-AuSable High School, is known throughout Michigan as the creator and director of the Ty McGregor's Roundball Camp and played professionally in Denmark as a player/coach.

The Grayling High School varsity wrestling team defeated the Elk Rapids Elks and Cheboygan Chiefs at Kalkaska to win the Michigan High School Athletic Association's District No. 167-3 tournament.

April

— 5 —

Michigan Court of Appeals justices reversed a ruling made in the 46th Circuit Court, which said that Otsego County did not have to pay a share of the attorney fees for a dispute with the 46th Circuit Trial Court over Crawford and Kalkaska Counties refusal to pay for pension and retirement health care coverage that the Michigan Supreme Court deemed were not reasonable and necessary costs for the tri-county court's operations.

Thomas M. Birkett, the warden of the Standish Maximum Correctional Facility, which oversees operations at Camp Lehman, informed the City of Grayling that the Public Works Agreement between the prison and city was being terminated due to the demand that prison employees who oversee prison work crews while working in the community pay city income taxes.

Trooper Neil Holton, of the Michigan State Police Houghton Lake Post was charged in the 83rd District Court in Roscommon County on a count of filing a false police report and one count of obtaining money under false pretenses.

— 12 —

Grayling resident Joe Greer finished another winter of feeding roadkill deer to bald eagles to help sustain the local population since they could not fish out of frozen over lakes and ponds for food.

James Robson, Janet Lee, Diane Hagle, Juan Portugal and Ashley Jurkovich, who were involved in a leadership training program through the Crawford County Economic Development Partnership, spearheaded a fund-raiser to buy equipment to outfit the new Animal Shelter of Crawford

County.

Scott Rice, an art instructor at Kirtland Community College, was honored with the Kendall College of Art and Design Alumni Community Service Award for his dedication to furthering the talent of his students.

— 19 —

Students in Sandy Baynham's Grayling Elementary School fifth grade class completed a survey on behalf of Crawford AuSable School District's nutrition and food services department to see what they liked and disliked about the meals being served for lunch and breakfast as part of their math curriculum.

The City of Grayling agreed to return to having police officers work 12-hour shifts rather than 8-hour shifts in exchange for the Michigan Fraternal Order of Police's agreement to drop an unfair labor practice charge filed against the city and a request for a court injunction seeking to block the schedule change.

Deputies from the Crawford County Sheriff's Office, Strike Investigative Narcotics Group (STING) and Grayling City Police Department initiated a drug warrant round up of 19 suspects following six months of intense investigative work done by the STING Narcotics Team and Crawford County Sheriff's Deputies.

Crawford County Commission on Aging received \$800 for a new freezer and the Crawford County Community Christian HELP Center received \$2,000 for supplies for their food pantry through the Great Lakes Energy People Fund.

New World Karate's 4th Annual Battle at the 45th Parallel, a two-day open martial arts tournament held at Grayling High School, fea-

tured about 500 competitors and 1,800 spectators. The tournament included weapons, breaking, continuous sparring, self-defense, team sparring, traditional forms, open forms and point sparring.

— 26 —


Members of the Michigan National Guard's 1071st Maintenance Co. spent community service time constructing a new playground structure for Grayling Little League.

Military officials prepared a draft environmental assessment for a proposal that would allow troops to fire the Multiple Launch Rocket System on lands leased to the military through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The missiles would be fired during annual training from a site located in Kalkaska County's Garfield Township and would land in an impact area located in Crawford County's Beaver Creek Township.


The Michigan Campus Compact awarded Kirtland Community College a \$6,000 "Brighter Futures" grant to help expand Chemistry Day to all sixth-grade students from area school districts that are in the college's core service area in Crawford, Oscoda, Ogemaw and Roscommon counties.

Kelly Pratt of Higgins Lake, a cadet in Kirtland Regional Police Academy's 24th graduating class, was awarded the Carl L. Darling Jr. Memorial Scholarship, funded by the Kirtland Community College Foundation. Darling, a 1980 graduate of Kirtland's criminal justice program, was shot to death in the line of duty by a hitchhiker to whom he had given a ride on May 3, 1986, while serving as a deputy in the Otsego County Sheriff's Department.

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2007: Year In Review — May

— 3 —
Grayling High School alumni Phyllis and Roger Kessler donated \$50,000 towards the high school weight room and physical fitness center, helping the school meet its goal to raise \$100,000 for the addition.

Cascade Management and Development LLC, an Ann Arbor-based company, began the process of purchasing 55 acres from the City of Grayling for construction of a \$45 million wood pellet mill.

Rising costs forced an increase in the admission fees for the Grayling Fish Hatchery, beginning with the 2007 Memorial Day weekend opening.

— 10 —
"Seasons on the AuSable," a book written by Rusty Gates and published by the Ann Arbor Media Group, was released on opening day of the trout season and in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of the Anglers of the AuSable, a conservation group founded by Gates, the owner of the Gates AuSable Lodge, and other anglers and conservationists.

Dr. Bill Dean, the current president of the Crawford AuSable School Board, and Lewis Madill, the

board's vice president, survived a challenge waged by Craig Stewart for their four-year seats on the school board during annual school elections.

Geoffrey Bichler, the owner of the Rialto Theatre, made a proposal to Grayling City officials to potentially transfer the property to the city while also considering offers from private investors for the business.

— 17 —
Special Forces Ventures, the organizers for the Grayling Airshow, agreed to join forces with Raymond Harris, a country music artist, who was planning on hosting a music festival on his father's ranch in Cohoctah Township called "Fields of Thunder" to put on the Grayling Rock and Roll Air Show.

Sixteen men and women, varying from high school age to adults, graduated from the Leadership Crawford County program, which was organized by the Crawford County Economic Development Partnership.

Grayling High School senior Spencer Derenzy was the first runner from Grayling to be awarded a scholarship to run for the Kirtland Community College Cross Country Team.

Terry Wakeley of Grayling, a ser-

vant-leader of 40-plus years to interscholastic athletics as a referee, recruiter of referees and educator of officials, was selected to receive the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Vern L. Norris Award for 2007. The Norris Award is presented annually to a veteran official who has been active in a local officials' association, has mentored other officials and has been involved in officials' education. It is named for Vern L. Norris, who was executive director of the MHSAA from 1978-86, and was well-respected by officials on the state and national levels.

— 24 —
Members of the American Legion Post #106 updated the display of fallen soldiers killed in the line of duty at the Crawford County Court House, adding the picture of Donald Smith, who was killed in Vietnam.

The AuSable Free Clinic received a \$20,850 grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network to help bolster the clinic's administrative staff.

The Grayling High School girls golf team's five primary scorers won their second consecutive regional title, posting a team score of 396 at the Michigan High School Athletic

Association Division III Region #15 tournament at Falconhead Golf Club in Big Rapids, finishing 18 strokes ahead of second place Big Rapids.

— 31 —
Patrick Crosson, the president of Axiom Entertainment, a Rochester-based firm, met with the Grayling Township Planning Commission for a site plan review for a project called, Main Street America, Inc., a \$161 million theme park proposed to be built north of Four Mile Road and east of I-75.

Catherine Hickey submitted three baskets for a display called the "Weaving History: A Basket Heritage Project," which was on display at the Michigan State University Museum in Lansing.

The Grayling community hosted a Ride of Silence to honor fallen cyclists and to raise safety awareness for the many people in the Grayling community who utilize non-motorized transportation.

Local builder Gary Fox completed construction of a log cabin at the Grayling Fish Hatchery, which will serve as a gift shop for the Grayling Fish Hatchery Steering Committee and where guest will pay their admission fees to enter the hatchery grounds.

June

— 7 —
Circuit Court Judge Dennis F. Murphy issued an injunction, saying it was unreasonable for Merit Energy, a Texas-based oil company, to pump up to 1.15 million gallons of water per day into Kolke Creek in Otsego County in order to clean up a toxic plume at an oil well site. Kolke Creek feeds into Lynn Lake, which is located at the headwaters of the AuSable River. Lynn Lake property owners and the Anglers of the AuSable, a Grayling area based conservation group, filed a lawsuit in Otsego County, seeking to stop the discharge while alternative clean up plans were explored.

About two dozen members from the Paul H. Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited assisted officials from the Huron Pines Resource Conservation District to stabilize the shore on the river behind Mercy Hospital Grayling, which had been eroding due to the increased flow of stormwater runoff flowing out of a retention pond that was created by the hospital's additions made over the last year.

Bill Slater, from the Grayling High School class of 1974, co-authored "Who Is the Greatest: Elvis or the Beatles?" with music professor Mike Shellans. The book is a massive archive of facts and

trivia, revealing everything from record sales to musical influences.

Matt Rimer of Grayling and Andy Triebold of Spring Arbor — a paddling team that placed third and second in the 2006 and 2005 AuSable River Canoe Marathons, won the General Clinton Canoe Regatta's Pro Class event, a 70-mile canoe race held in New York during Memorial Day weekend, for the second consecutive year.

— 14 —
Camp Grayling officials began construction on a civilian general aviation area, which will give Grayling its own miniature airport when the facility is opened in September 30, 2008.

Local law enforcement officers founded the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #189, with Grayling City Police Officer Tim Coe serving as the first chapter president, conservation officer Mark Lutz as the vice-president and corrections officer Kevin Fleming as the secretary/treasurer.

Mike Amman, a 1995 Grayling High School graduate and Michigan State University graduate with a film study specialization, filmed scenes for a short film called "Bonsai" at Mercy Hospital Grayling.

Northern Woodcrafters purchased

the former Carlisle Paddles and Oars, Inc. building located on North Down River Road, with plans to invest \$250,000 for manufacturing equipment, a semi tractor-trailer to haul the furniture and to expand its workforce from six employees to 26 employees.

— 21 —
Crawford County Board of Commissioners, Mercy Hospital Grayling, Mobile Medical Response (MMR), and North Flight, Inc. officials formed an agreement to regulate emergency medical services in Crawford County.

Grayling resident Robert Young, a former state representative and senator from the Saginaw area, promoted an alternative plan for the City of Grayling's downtown streetscape project which consisted of building a white pine overhang on the storefronts and creating wood planked sidewalks to capitalize the community's milltown theme.

Charley McNamara, a 2003 Grayling High School graduate, gave an undergraduate speech entirely in Latin at his Harvard University graduation ceremony before 30,000 commencement attendees, including honorary degree recipient Bill Gates.

— 28 —
Text created by Parker Learman,

an AuSable Primary School first grader, and a picture designed by Kyle Watkins, a second grader, were combined for a youth t-shirt that will be sold during the AuSable River Marathon Festival weekend.

Linda Ahnert was voted to have the ugliest tie in Crawford County in the Grayling Uptown District Association's Ugly Tie Contest, which raised money for a variety of local charities.

Dr. Darius Divina and Dr. Brian Gedeon, from Mercy Hospital Grayling, volunteered to be duct taped to the hospital's cafeteria wall in order to raise funds for Mercy Hospital's Relay for Life team.

A jury found Lawrence Edward Baumgart, 46, of Roscommon, guilty for animal cruelty in a case linked to a yellow lab, which has been named Thor, that was found on Jan. 11 emaciated in a carport where Baumgart's mother, Judith Baumgart, lives on Stephan Bridge Road.

The Grayling Generating Station, which is located off of Four Mile Road, celebrated its fifth year for being part of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Clean Corporate Citizen program and for surpassing 800,000 hours — 15 years — without having a lost-time work accident at the plant.

July

— 5 —
Sarah, Rachel and Adam Kaiser performed at the Williamsburg Showcase Theater in a dinner theater review-type show called "I Believe in Music," headed by the popular northern Michigan entertainer Dominic Fortuna.

The United States Department of Agriculture awarded a \$20,000 grant to the Grayling Fish Hatchery Steering Committee to remove ceiling and flooring containing asbestos from the building, so that the interior of the building is not a health hazard.

American Flags, flown at the Forward Operating Base Warrior in Kirkuk, Iraq, were presented to the American Legion Post #106 and legion members at the legion's annual meeting where they elected new officers. Sgt. Jason Thayer presented a flag in honor of his grandfather, Art Thayer, the American Legion Post #106 chaplain, and Sgt. Eddie Palmer presented a flag to his grandfather, Junior Palmer, a legion member. Thayer and Palmer are members of the 1071st Maintenance Company, which served a 15-month mission supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.



AuSable Valley Animal Shelter hosts grand opening ceremony (July 26 Edition)

— 12 —
Crawford County District Court Judge Monte Burmeister ordered Lawrence Edward Baumgart, 46, to serve 30 days in the Crawford County Jail immediately for a charge of animal/cruelty-abandonment, which was linked to a yellow labrador retriever named Thor, which he was accused of neglecting. Baumgart was also ordered to pay \$4,203.83 in court costs, fines and restitution, and perform 200 hours of community service at area animal shelters, while serving two years of probation.

The Army's elite sport skydiving team, the Golden Knights, performed at the Camp Grayling Rock & Roll Air Show along with a number of classic southern rock acts including Molly Hatchet and Blackfoot.

Crawford County Prosecutor John Huss lobbied the Crawford County Board of Commissioners to allow his office to hire retired Crawford County Sheriff's Office Detective Sgt. Richard Meyer to do detective work, preparing major felony cases for trial.

— 19 —
The City of Grayling's Planning Commission approved plans for a Walgreens store to be built on the corner of the I-75 Business Loop and M-72 East.

The Crawford AuSable Soccer Association sought to have land at

the Crawford County Fairground designated by county officials for the development of new soccer fields.

Members of the Perrin Chapter of Trout Unlimited completed annual maintenance on 51 white cedar trees, which were planted at the Guide's Rest property in 2001 in conjunction with the Cedars of the AuSable, an organization which has planted thousands of cedar trees along the banks of the AuSable River and Manistee River.

Construction crews installed the bases and foundations for dynamic message signs that will be installed by the Michigan Department of Transportation on I-75. The dynamic message signs are programmable signs that will give motorists information regarding travel issues on I-75 and U.S. 127, construction updates and Amber Alerts, emergency bulletins sent out by law enforcement to find an abducted child. The signs, which cost \$680,000, were funded through the state's intelligent transportation system program.

— 26 —
The 2007 Weyerhaeuser AuSable River Canoe Marathon had 73 paddling teams entered — a record number of participants in the event's 60-year history.

The AuSable Valley Animal Shelter hosted its grand opening and open house after over a year of antici-

ipation and careful planning. The new state-of-the-art facility is located on the Crawford County Fairgrounds and is the official successor to the Animal Shelter of Crawford County.

Bernie Fowler, who competed in the inaugural AuSable River Canoe Marathon, was honored as the grand marshal for the AuSable River Parade.

Christopher Wright, a local author and 1982 Grayling High School graduate, was selected to serve as the emcee for the parade. In 2000, Wright began writing fiction, including a series of children's books called "Michigan Chillers," "American Chillers," and "Freddie Fernorter: Fearless First Grader" under the pen name of "Jonathan Rand." Under the pen name of "Christopher Knight," Wright also writes horror fiction for adults.

Over 50 *Harry Potter* fans, most of whom were in their teens or early twenties, lined up in front of AuSable Gifts in downtown Grayling to get the earliest possible opportunity to read *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, by author J.K. Rowling.

Matt Rimer of Grayling and Andy Triebold of Spring Arbor won the Spike's Challenge C-2 race, an event that included more than 60 paddling teams, for the team's third consecutive victory.

2007: Year In Review — August

— 2 —
Matt Rimer of Grayling and Andrew Triebold of Spring Arbor won the 60th Weyerhaeuser AuSable River Canoe Marathon, edging Matt Streib of Bristol, Ind. and Steve Corlew of Grayling by 38 seconds to the end of the 120-mile challenge. Fifty-eight of the 75 teams that started the race, reached the finish line at Oscoda.

Jeffrey Jagodzinski, a Port Huron teen who was diagnosed at a young age with a potentially fatal heart condition called tricuspid atresia, paid a visit to Grayling through the Kid's Wish Network. Jagodzinski stayed at the Woodland Motel while in town, went on a fishing trip with Rusty Gates, visited with local Department of Natural Resources conservation officers, went to the Grayling Fish Hatchery and celebrated his birthday at the Dawson and Stevens Classic Diner, where he received several gifts donated from area businesses.

The Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve, based in Roscommon, partnered with the AuSable River Center, Anglers of the AuSable and Kirtland Community College to recruit a corp of volunteers to do a water quality monitoring project on the AuSable River Watershed.

The Crawford County Historical Museum sponsored a Historical Homes Tour, as a fund-raiser for the museum, to give citizens a perspective on the ornate Victorian architecture

and Danish murals in four homes that were built in the late 1800s, or early 1900s, in Grayling.

— 9 —
Michigan National Guard troops trained at the Fixed Operating Base (FOB) Wolverine at Camp Grayling, during annual training, as they prepared for potential deployments to Iraq or Afghanistan for the fight on global terrorism.

The Grayling Charter Township Planning Commission approved a planned unit development zoning designation for the Main Street America Inc. theme park, which is proposed to be built on 1,800 acres of land located east of I-75 and north of Four Mile Road.

The Grayling Regional Chamber of Commerce Board announced that it was laying off Executive Director Tim Zigala, effective Aug. 1, due to budget woes. Zigala served two stints as the chamber director for about eight years.

Youngsters interested in a possible health career spent the day at Mercy Hospital Grayling, exploring emergency medicine, surgical nursing, radiology and other hospital departments.

— 16 —
The names of eight soldiers, who paid the ultimate sacrifice fighting the war on terrorism, were added to the Fallen Heroes Monument, which is located next to the chapel at Camp Grayling, at the end of the Michigan National Guard's annual

training.

Bob Bovee, who helped found Kirtland Community College and guided the regional educational institution for nearly four decades, was recognized for his dedication and service to the college.

Michigan's First Gentleman, Daniel G. Mulhern, the husband of Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm, gave a talk on leadership at the Grayling Rotary Club's weekly meeting.

Tim Sanchez, the Crawford AuSable School District's new athletic director, officially started his new duties, replacing Doug Pummell, who resigned from the athletic director's position to accept a teaching position at Grayling High School.

— 23 —
Just over four dozen youngsters took part in the Crawford County Adventure Day Camp, which was organized and funded by the Crawford County Michigan State University Extension, Grayling Recreation Authority and Catholic Human Services.

The Crawford County Relay for Life, held at the Grayling High School, raised over \$27,000 for cancer research.

The Grayling High School Band had a busy summer, performing at four community events including the Camp Grayling Rock and Roll Air Show, the Fourth of July Parade, the AuSable River Festival Parade and the Lovells Bridge Walk. In

addition, students involved in the Tri-M Music Honor Society participated in the Adopt-A-Highway program, cleaning up Old 27 leading from downtown Grayling to the Grayling High School.

— 30 —
Information regarding the financial troubles for Patrick Crosson, the project manager for the Mainstreet America, Inc. theme park, was provided to state, Crawford County and Grayling Township officials.

Calvary Baptist Academy celebrated their 30 year anniversary. One highlight of the evening was a surprise recognition of Michael P. Corlew's 25th anniversary serving as supervisor of the academy.

The Grayling City Council approved a resolution directing the Michigan Employee Retirement System (MERS) to offer an early retirement window to the city's senior police officers.

The Old Historic U.S. 27 Motor Tour rolled into Grayling for a classic car show. The motor tour included 10 car shows in 10 cities during the five-day trip across the state, leading from Coldwater to Cheboygan. The purpose of the tour was to promote the designation of U.S. 27 as a Heritage Route that people used to travel to Florida before the federal interstate system was developed. The state's Heritage Route program was established to recognize historic, scenic and recreational routes in Michigan.

September

— 6 —
Storm Shriver, the son of Lynne and Dave Shriver, was elected to serve as the Lodge Chief for the Order of the Arrow Mischigonong Lodge #89, the first Boy Scout from Grayling to earn the honorable leadership position in the lodge's 36-year history.

Grayling Charter Township and City of Grayling officials moved forward with a \$25,734 remediation plan to remove mold from the Grayling City/Township Fire Department and to upgrade the air exchange system for the building. The plan was to address a problem that was caused by an airborne agent, used in a weed killer at the Grayling Army Air Field, coming into the building and creating the conditions for mold to grow.

The Back to School Gang, a group of Grayling students who have gathered together since they were first graders and intend to keep the tradition alive until they are seniors in 2012, decorated the Grayling Middle School to welcome back their fellow students and school staff.

— 13 —
The Grayling Uptown District Association (GUDA) held a Blessing of the Dozers ceremony on Michigan

Avenue for the City of Grayling's \$1.3 million streetscape project. The ceremony was held to ensure the safety of the construction workers and the success of the project. Dr. Bill Cargo, the pastor of the Michelson Memorial United Methodist Church, officiated at the ceremony.

Main Street America Inc., a planned amusement park proposed south of Grayling, selected the Alpena-based DeVere Construction Company as construction manager for the entire 1,800 acre project.

The Crawford County Board of Commissioners agreed to give \$5,000 to the Crawford AuSable School District to finish a facelift on the Grayling High School's tennis courts.

Dan Sinock, the principle officer for New Wave Products Manufacturing, Inc., developed the canoe patch, which is used to repair canoes used in the fleets of local canoe livers that have taken their beating and banging on the rivers. The canoe patch is used to repair the ribs in a canoe, the portion of the watercraft that holds the frame of the canoe together and keeps its shape. The aluminum patch goes over the portion of the canoe ribs which

breaks down due to the age of the canoes and the use of the watercraft on local rivers.

— 20 —
The Crawford County Deputy Sheriff's Association, which includes both current and retired sheriff's deputies and corrections officers, started a new program, supplying about two dozen backpacks filled with school supplies to local students.

The men and woman in the Grayling Order of the Eastern Star #85 held their annual patty sale to support its scholarships for Grayling High School graduates, the Crawford County Community Christian Help Center, the Lions Clubs of Grayling and Roscommon and the Riverhouse Shelter.

A safe door, used for a walk in vault by the Salling, Hanson & Co., and safety deposit boxes, used by lumber barons Rasmus Hanson and Nels Michelson, were donated by the Three Lakes Abstract & Title, Co. to the Crawford County Historical Museum.

— 27 —
Students at the AuSable Primary School, Grayling Elementary School and Grayling Middle School created pinwheels — the children's interna-

tional sign of peace — in celebration of the International Day of Peace. The pinwheels were taken to the St. Mary's Church, where an interfaith service celebrating peace and justice was held.

Grayling High School's weight room and physical fitness center was named the Kessler Family's Fitness Center, in recognition of Phyllis and Roger Kessler who donated \$50,000 towards the high school weight room and physical fitness project, helping the Crawford AuSable School District meet its goal to raise \$100,000 for the facility.

Patrick Crosson, project manager for Axiom Entertainment, the firm that has proposed to build the Mainstreet America, Inc. theme park, requested a six-month extension for his letter of intent to purchase 1,800 acres of land from the state Department of Natural Resources for the development.

October

— 4 —
Robert "Bob" Heft of Saginaw, who designed the 50-star flag as a history class project as a 17-year-old high school student in 1958, spoke to Grayling Middle School students about how he became part of American history. The event was sponsored by the Grayling Rotary Club.

Friends and fellow golfers recently held the inaugural Irv McIsaac Golf Open to recognize his contributions to the Grayling Country Club, the youth, the community and to raise money for a scholarship that will be given to a Grayling High School student athlete who takes part in the district's golf program.

Mercy Hospital Grayling received the 2006 Governor's Award of Excellence for improving patient safety and quality of care in the hospital setting.

— 11 —
Hundreds of people came to downtown Grayling for the Timberliner Train weekend. The train excursion was sponsored by the Crawford County Historical Society, in conjunction with the Steam Railroad Institute and the Bluewater Michigan Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, to raise funds for the Crawford County Historical Museum.

The Col. Potter Cairn Rescue Network, a non-profit organization that was established in 2001, dedicated an intake center, run by volunteer Kathy Cabbie called "The Oz Project," which is located off of South Staley Lake Road in Grayling Township. The intake center received its name since "Toto," from the "Wizard of Oz," is the most widely known cairn terrier. After their stay at the Oz Project, where they are trained and receive veterinary care, the terriers go to foster care homes before they are placed in permanent homes.



Timberliner Train excursion (Oct. 11 Edition)

The Men's Group, a group of Grayling area men who meet for food and fellowship every month, repaired a work out facility used by Crawford County Sheriff's deputies, and county employees, as a community service project.

— 18 —
Students and school staff at Grayling High School started a school-wide recycling program through a \$2,000 grant received by Grayling Charter Township from the Crawford County Board of Commissioner's environmental fund.

The Crawford County Library System launched "Operation Sock Monkey" to support families of the troops deployed to fight the global war on terrorism.

The Riverhouse Shelter held an open house and celebration to mark its 20th anniversary for assisting the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Grayling Elementary School students adopted new mascots, the "Little Vikings." Ali Ferrigan, a recent graduate of Grayling High School and a talented artist, created a mural of the new characters on the elementary school's gym wall. Dharna Records owners, Diane and Al Bondar, also recorded a song "Little Vikings on the Move," which was written by Clyde Holzbauer, the school counselor, to promote the new

mascots.

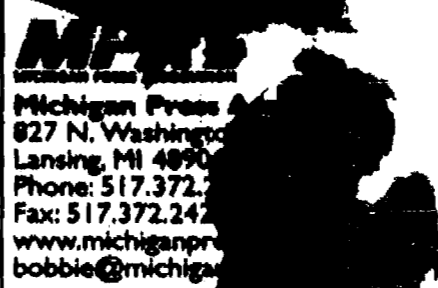
The Grayling Vikings clinched a football playoff berth with a 16-0 victory over the Boyne City Ramblers at Grayling High School.

— 25 —
Crawford County Sheriff Kirk Wakefield received an award, from Michigan Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land, for involvement in the Sheriff's Telling Our Parents and Promoting Educated Drivers (STOPPED) program.

The Patriot Award, which is given by Camp Grayling officials at their annual retirement and recognition dinner, was renamed in honor of Colonel Dennis D. Hull, the founder of the award and the former Camp Grayling commander who died after a battle with cancer in April 2007. The first Camp Grayling Colonel Dennis D. Hull American Patriot Award was presented by Hull's wife, Sandy Hull, and son, Austin Hull, to recipients Sandy Coe and Keith Miles, the owners of Fay's Motel in Grayling, for their support of soldiers training at Camp Grayling.

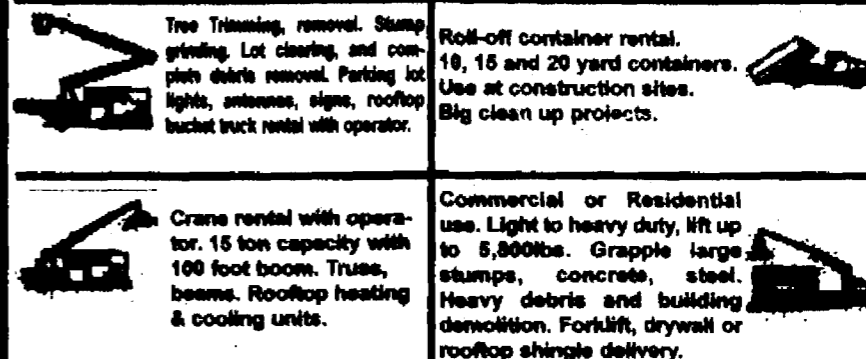
The Auxiliary of Mercy Hospital Grayling honored its members for volunteering their time, talents and energies to supporting the mission of the hospital and for their financial support of the hospital's new emergency room.

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT



Kirtland Community College announces its Workforce Development Training Calendar for 2007-2008. These courses are designed to help employees in all types of businesses upgrade their skills, and would-be employees lay a foundation for future employment.

Workforce Development Training Calendar Sept. 2007-May 2008

| Computer Classes | | | Entrepreneurial Training | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| Course | Dates | Location | Course | Dates | Location |
| QuickBooks - Level 1 \$112 each level | Nov. 5 Oct. 22 Feb. 4 Feb. 18 May 5 May 19 | West Branch M-TEC Gaylord West Branch M-TEC Gaylord West Branch M-TEC Gaylord | Business Basics: How to Start Your Own Business - \$15 | Sept. 10 Sept. 12 Jan. 7 Jan. 15 | M-TEC Gaylord West Branch M-TEC Gaylord West Branch |
| QuickBooks - Level 2 \$112 each level | Nov. 7 Oct. 24 Feb. 6 Feb. 20 May 7 May 21 | West Branch M-TEC Gaylord West Branch M-TEC Gaylord West Branch M-TEC Gaylord | How to Write a Business Plan - \$15 | Oct. 1 Oct. 10 | M-TEC Gaylord West Branch |
| QuickBooks - Level 3 \$112 each level | Nov. 9 Oct. 26 Feb. 8 Feb. 22 May 9 May 23 | West Branch M-TEC Gaylord West Branch M-TEC Gaylord West Branch M-TEC Gaylord | Marketing Your Business - \$15 | Feb. 7 Feb. 19 | M-TEC Gaylord West Branch |
| MS Excel - Level 1 \$72 each level | Sept. 17 Oct. 15 March 3 March 24 | M-TEC Gaylord West Branch M-TEC Gaylord M-TEC Gaylord | Exceptional Customer Service - \$15 | March 3 March 18 | M-TEC Gaylord West Branch |
| MS Excel - Level 2 \$72 each level | Sept. 19 Oct. 15 March 3 March 24 | M-TEC Gaylord West Branch M-TEC Gaylord M-TEC Gaylord | Increasing Your Bottom Line - \$15 | April 7 April 22 | M-TEC Gaylord West Branch |
| MS Excel - Level 3 \$72 each level | Sept. 21 Oct. 17 March 5 March 26 | M-TEC Gaylord West Branch M-TEC Gaylord M-TEC Gaylord | Turbo Tax - \$96 | Jan. 21 Jan. 23 | West Branch M-TEC Gaylord |
| MS Excel - Level 4 \$72 each level | Sept. 24 Oct. 17 March 5 March 26 | M-TEC Gaylord West Branch M-TEC Gaylord M-TEC Gaylord | MIOSHA Safety Training | | |
| | | | Course | Date | Location |
| | | | Health Issues in Healthcare - \$70 | Oct. 3 March 4 | M-TEC Gaylord West Branch |
| | | | Dealing with Work Place Violence - \$70 | Oct. 16 | West Branch |
| | | | When MIOSHA Visits - \$40 | Nov. 30 | M-TEC Gaylord |
| | | | Confined Space Entry - \$40 | Feb. 5 | M-TEC Gaylord |
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Dr. James McClellan, MD



2007: Year In Review – November

Patrick Crosson, project manager for Axiom Entertainment, which has proposed to build the Mainstreet America, Inc. theme park on 1,800 acres of land located east of I-75 and north of Four Mile Road, said developers were no longer seeking \$5 to 7 million in bonds through Crawford County to pay for road and electrical system upgrades, opting instead to seek future tax breaks for the project.

The Instructional Center on Kirtland Community College's main campus was evacuated following a chemical spill. An instructor was preparing chemicals for a class and developed an unusual reaction, causing a vapor plume and chemicals to spill onto the floor. Firefighters from South Branch Township and Roscommon County's Hazardous Materials Team were dispatched to the scene.

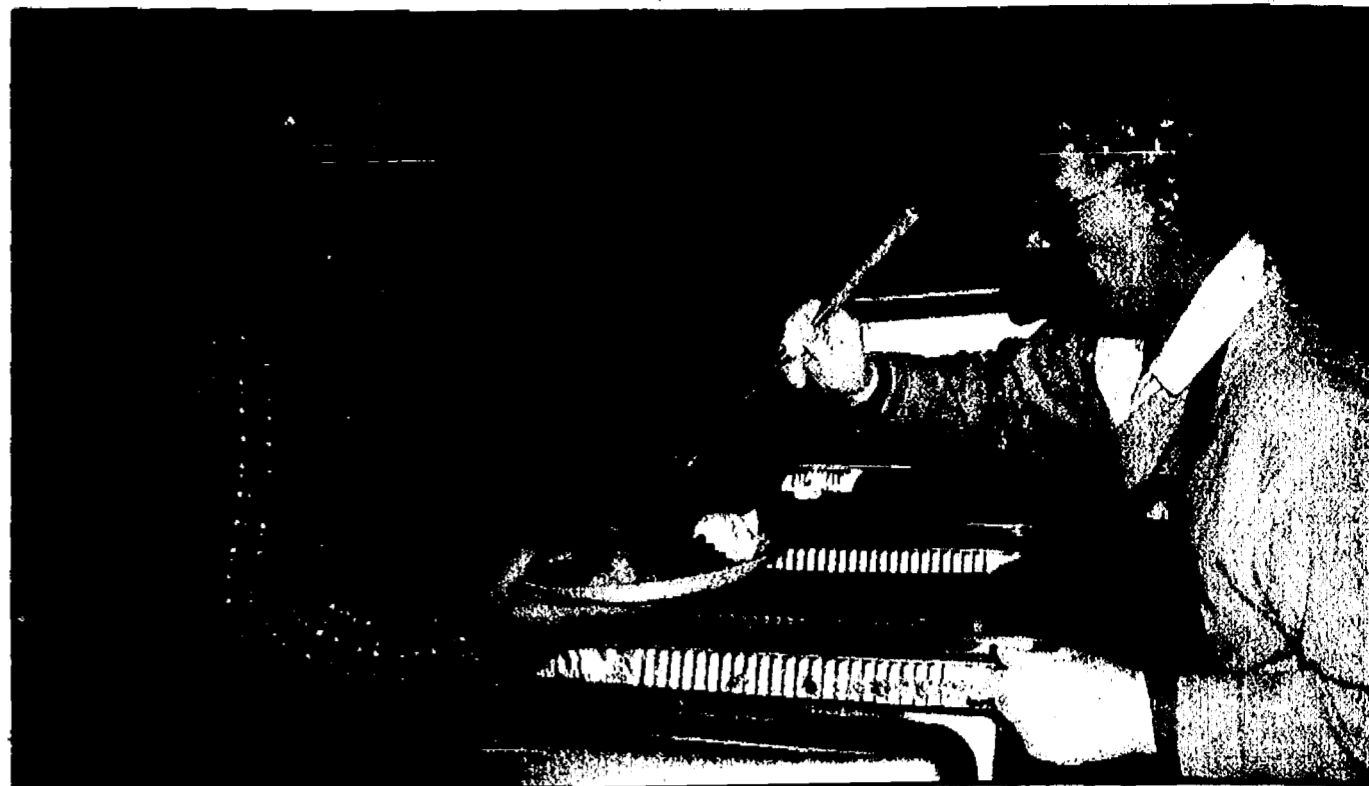
The Crawford County Commission on Aging began studying the option of moving its offices, and the senior center, to the old Grayling Fish Hatchery building.

The Grayling City Council ratified a three-year contract with the union representing the Grayling City Police officers, who had been working without a contract for nearly a year and a half.

The budget for the state's 2007-2008 fiscal year for the Department of Human Services (DHS) included funding for the Nokomis Challenge Center in Houghton Lake and the Shawono Center in Grayling, two facilities threatened with closure during the state's budget negotiations.

Christine Mahaney, a 1986 graduate of Grayling High School and owner of Toulia, a 3-year-old border collie, was recognized for having "America's Most Talented Pet" in the national "Petco Stars" competition. Toulia beat out more than 600 dogs and received the most online votes in the competition.

Members of the Grayling Firefighters Association, and Joe Duran the director of Crawford County's Building and Zoning Department, collaborated to restore a logging sled from the late 1800s for the Crawford County Historical



Crawford AuSable Community Thanksgiving Dinner volunteers serve 329 meals and deliver another 385 meals (Nov. 29 Edition)

Museum.

Seniors from the Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program knitted or crocheted sweaters, hats, mittens and small afghans, which were then donated to area agencies and schools for local children. Most of the yarn was purchased with a \$500 grant from the Crawford-Roscommon Child Protection Agency. Alice Snyder, the director of the Crawford County Commission on Aging, submitted the successful grant application.

Richard Kiessel, a Crawford County hunters education instructor, was recognized by the Michigan Natural Resources Commission and the Department of Natural Resources as the 2007 Hunters Education Volunteer Instructor of the Year.

"Thor's Fund," which is kept by the AuSable Valley Animal Shelter to help animals in need of medical attention, was named in honor of the yellow lab that was in the center of an animal abuse and neglect case when he was put down after a battle with congestive heart disease.

After two decades of helping maintain patients' dental needs in Grayling, Dr. Arthur Kerle retired from his dental practice to accept a

professor's position at Greenville College. It's a small Christian college located in Greenville, Ill., where he will teach anatomy, physiology, genetics, cellular biology and human biology to prepare pre-med and pre-dental students for their professional education.

Bill Borchers, commander of the Carl Borchers Post of the V.F.W. #3736, presented a community service award to James "Jimbo" Kehr, for the poems he writes for veterans and the military and also for his patriotism, at the organization's annual Veterans Day ceremony.

The Crawford County Board of Commissioners renamed the Crawford County Fairgrounds property the Crawford County Sports Complex, and have established a \$50,000 fund for improvements to the grounds.

A replica of the Skingley house, a farmhouse built by Bertha and John Robert Skingley in 1901 in Beaver Creek Township, is kept at the Crawford County Historical Museum. It was featured in the December issue of *Miniature Collector* magazine, in a series about miniatures found in unlikely places.

"The Cardinal," a comic strip created by Grayling native Kurt Kolka, made its debut on

ComicsSherpa.com, a showcase for aspiring cartoonists.

Only 29 deer were displayed at the Skip's Sport Shop buck pole, during the two-day Orangethroat Round-up event that helped kick off the start of firearm deer hunting season, due to a low turnout of hunters.

The Grayling City Council dedicated Burton Court as a one-way city street traveling west, to address safety and liability issues downtown.

Grayling City Patrolman, Bob Butzin, retired after serving 26 years for the Grayling City Police Department, opting to take advantage of an early retirement offer made by the Grayling City Council.

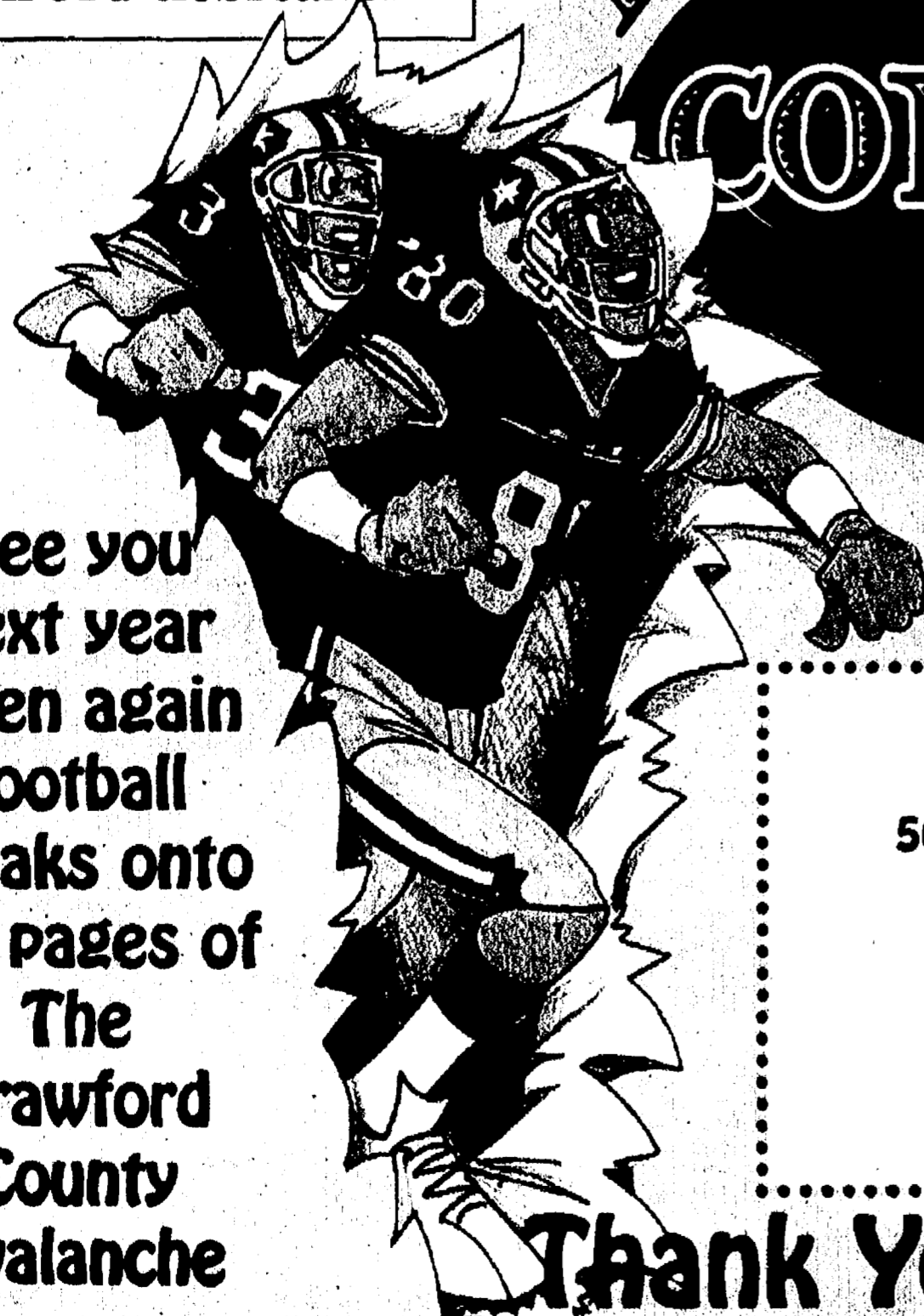
Volunteers for the 14th annual Crawford AuSable Community Thanksgiving Dinner had another successful year, serving 329 meals at the Camp Grayling Armory and delivering 385 meals to people at their homes.

Sandy Enos was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Crawford AuSable School District's Board of Education after Judith Gorski, a Crawford AuSable Board of Education trustee and retired Grayling High School principal, resigned from the board, citing family health issues.

WEEK 17 WINNER

KIM MURPHY
is the winner
for week 17
with 8 correct
on 3rd tiebreaker

2007 FOOTBALL CONTEST



**WEEK 17
WINNING GAMES**

1. Green Bay
2. New England
3. Philadelphia
4. Cincinnati
5. Baltimore
6. Washington
7. Carolina
8. Tennessee
9. Chicago
10. Houston
11. Atlanta
12. Denver

Tiebreaker Game #1- 47
Tiebreaker Game #2- 58
Tiebreaker Game #3- 41

• WEEKLY PRIZES •

Sports Cap - Scheer Motors

50% off 20 lbs. Propane Cylinder Fill Up - Flick & Sons

\$50 - Crawford County Avalanche

Free Express Pizza - Spicy Bob's

50% off any Concrete Table-HMI Specialties

American Legion - Free Bowling Gift Certificate

Comfort Center - \$25 Gift Certificate

**Thank You to our Advertisers and
Participants for a Great Season!**

See you
next year
when again
football
breaks onto
the pages of
The
Crawford
County
Avalanche

LEGAL ACTION

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Edward J. Boudoux and Tammy L. Boudoux, husband and wife, original mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns, Mortgagee, dated January 19, 2006, and recorded on January 26, 2006 in Liber 679 on Page 614, in Crawford County records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Thirty Thousand Twenty-Two And 84/100 Dollars (\$130,022.84), including interest at 9.3% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Crawford County, at 10:00 AM, on January 30, 2008.

Said premises are situated in City of Grayling, Crawford County, Michigan, and are described as: The East 1/2 of the West 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 15, Township 26 North, Range 3 West, except part of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 15, Town 26 North, Range 3 West, Grayling Township, Crawford County, Michigan described as beginning at a point distant 821.42 feet North 89 degrees 29 minutes East, along the North Section line and 350.00 feet South 01 degrees 15 minutes 23 seconds East, from the Northwest corner of said Section 15 and extending thence South 88 degrees 44 minutes 37 seconds East, 4.00 feet; thence South 01 degrees 15 minutes 23 seconds West, 40.00; thence North 88 degrees 44 minutes 37 seconds West, 4.00 feet; thence North 01 degrees 15 minutes 23 seconds East, 40.00 feet to the Point of Beginning. Including all building and improvements on the property and all rights of the owner to streets, highways, alleys, driveways, easements and rights of way relating to the property.

The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: December 27, 2007

For more information, please call:

FC R 248.593.1309

Trott & Trott, P.C.

Attorneys For Servicer

31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200

Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525

File #178515F01

-27-3-10-17

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Denise K. Talbot, a married woman and Robert Talbot, her husband, original mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns, Mortgagee, dated July 28, 2004, and recorded on August 3, 2004 in Liber 670 on Page 754, in Crawford County records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Seventy-Two Thousand Four Hundred Six And 81/100 Dollars (\$72,406.81), including interest at 7.125% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Crawford County, at 10:00 AM, on January 30, 2008.

Said premises are situated in Township of Grayling, Crawford County, Michigan, and are described as: Lots 30, 31, 32 and 33, Block 4, Porgage Lake Park, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 17, Crawford County Records.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: December 27, 2007

For more information, please call:

FC X 248.593.1302

Trott & Trott, P.C.

Attorneys For Servicer

31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200

Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525

File #178506F01

-27-3-10-17

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Edward J. Boudoux and Tammy L. Boudoux, husband and wife, original mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns, Mortgagee, dated January 19, 2006, and recorded on January 26, 2006 in Liber 679 on Page 614, in Crawford County records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Thirty Thousand Twenty-Two And 84/100 Dollars (\$130,022.84), including interest at 9.3% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Crawford County, at 10:00 AM, on January 30, 2008.

Said premises are situated in City of Grayling, Crawford County, Michigan, and are described as: The East 1/2 of the West 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 15, Township 26 North, Range 3 West, except part of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 15, Town 26 North, Range 3 West, Grayling Township, Crawford County, Michigan described as beginning at a point distant 821.42 feet North 89 degrees 29 minutes East, along the North Section line and 350.00 feet South 01 degrees 15 minutes 23 seconds East, from the Northwest corner of said Section 15 and extending thence South 88 degrees 44 minutes 37 seconds East, 4.00 feet; thence South 01 degrees 15 minutes 23 seconds West, 40.00; thence North 88 degrees 44 minutes 37 seconds West, 4.00 feet; thence North 01 degrees 15 minutes 23 seconds East, 40.00 feet to the Point of Beginning. Including all building and improvements on the property and all rights of the owner to streets, highways, alleys, driveways, easements and rights of way relating to the property.

The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: December 27, 2007

For more information, please call:

FC H 248.593.1300

Trott & Trott, P.C.

Attorneys For Servicer

31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200

Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525

File #177936F01

-27-3-10-17

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE PREPARER OF THIS NOTICE IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

Default has been made in the terms of a mortgage made by Tammy A. Jackson, an unmarried individual, of 8153 North M18, Roscommon, Michigan, Mortgagor, to Firstbank West Branch, Mortgagee, dated August 15, 2000, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for the County of Crawford, State of Michigan, on August 24, 2000, at Liber 516 Pages 108-113. There is claimed to be due hereof the sum of Fifty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Eight and 29/100 (\$58,968.29) Dollars, including interest at 6.9% percent per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in the mortgage, and the statutes of the State of Michigan; NOTICE is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the Crawford County Courthouse in Grayling, Michigan in Crawford County, Michigan, at 10:00 a.m. on January 30, 2008

Said premises are located in the Township of South Branch, Crawford County, Michigan, and are described as follows:

A part of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, Section 33, T25N, R1W, beginning at the Northwest corner of same and running thence South 0 degrees 45 minutes East along the west line thereof 219.4 feet; thence South 49 degrees 32 minutes East 579.6 feet to the right of way line of Highway M-144; thence North 40 degrees 28 minutes East along same 165 feet; thence North 49 degrees 32 minutes West 724.2 feet to the point of beginning. (Tax Parcel No. 20-061-033-006-280-00)

The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. For additional information, contact the preparer of this Notice.

Dated: December 17, 2007

JUÁREZ & JUÁREZ, PC, Attorneys for Mortgagee

132 South Eighth, West Branch, MI 48661

(989) 345-0601

-27-3-10-17

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE BY SALE

Default has been made in the conditions of a certain Mortgage made on the date of 13th day of January, 2006 by Denise Marie Elekonich and Jerry Lee Elekonich, husband and wife of 2346 Peaceful Vista, Grayling, Michigan 49738 upon which note there is claimed to be due and unpaid at the date of this Notice the sum of **One Hundred Eighteen Thousand Eight Hundred and 74/100 (\$18,800.74) Dollars**, plus accrued interest at the rate of **7 percent**, plus late fees and other allowable costs, including reasonable attorney fees, real property taxes and insurance accruing from **July 13, 2007**.

Further, no suit or proceeding at law or in equity having been instituted to recover the debt or any part of the debt, secured by said mortgage and the power of sale being contained in said mortgage having become operative by reason of such default;

NOW THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that on **February 1, 2008 at 10:00** in the forenoon at the main front door of the Crawford County Courthouse, Grayling, Michigan, that being the place for holding the Circuit Court for said County, there will be offered for sale and sold to the highest bidder at public sale, for the purpose of satisfying the amounts due and unpaid on said promissory note with interest thereon at the rate of **7 percent**, together with legal costs and charges of sale, provided by law and in said promissory note and mortgage. The land and the premises described in said mortgage is located in the State of Michigan, County of Crawford, Township of Grayling and further described as follows:

Lot 7, Shangri-La Subdivision recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, Pages 3 & 4, Crawford County Records.

The redemption period shall be six months from the date of sale. The property may be redeemed by paying the amount bid at the sale, plus interest at the rate of **7 percent**, and any fees, taxes or other unpaid encumbrances on the property from the date of the sale.

This notice is an attempt to collect a debt.

Richard J. Jaskowski (P47123)
Attorney For Mortgagee
2373 S. I-75 Business Loop
PO Drawer 665
Grayling, MI 49738
(989) 348-5232
27-3-10-17-24-31

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THIS FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

MORTGAGE SALE: Default having been made in the conditions of a certain Mortgage made by APRIL M. BALLOR, a/k/a April May Contreras and April Contreras-Gugin and JOSEPH R. CONTRERAS, of 303 North Arthur Street, Grayling, MI 49738-8631, to THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, acting through the Farmers Home Administration (now known as Rural Development), United States Department of Agriculture, with its District Office being located at 240 Wright Street, West Branch, Michigan, 48661, the Mortgagee, such Mortgage being dated April 1, 1993, and recorded April 1, 1993, in Liber 357 in Crawford County Records, on Pages 15-18, and a certain Mortgage made by Robert W. Starks and Michelle A. Starks, husband and wife, to the United States of America, acting through the Farmers Home Administration (now known as Rural Development), United States Department of Agriculture, being dated September 14, 1988, and recorded September 14, 1988, in Liber 286 in Crawford County Records on Pages 269-272, such Mortgage assumed by April M. Ballor and Joseph R. Contreras, such Mortgages being given to secure Promissory Notes payable to the Government, and by reason of such default the Mortgagee elects to declare the entire unpaid amount of such Mortgages due and payable forthwith, on which Mortgages there is claimed to be due at the date of this notice, for principal and interest, the sum of SIXTY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE AND 68/100 (\$65,535.68) DOLLARS, and no proceedings having been instituted at law or equity to recover the debt now remaining secured by said Mortgages, or any part thereof, whereby the power of sale contained in said Mortgages have become operative;

Now, Therefore, Notice is Hereby Given that by virtue of the power of sale contained in said Mortgages and in pursuance of the statute of the State of Michigan in such case made and provided, the said Mortgages will be foreclosed by a sale of the premises therein described, or so much thereof as may be necessary, at public auction, to the highest bidder, at the Sheriff's Department at 200 West Michigan Avenue in the City of Grayling, County of Crawford, Michigan, that being the place of holding the Circuit Court in and for said County, on Wednesday, the 23rd day of January, 2008

-27-3-10-17

at 10:00 a.m., local time, and said premises will be sold to pay the amount due as aforesaid on the Mortgages together with 7.75% interest, legal costs, attorneys' fees and also any taxes and insurance that said Mortgagee does pay on or prior to the date of said sale; which said premises described in said Mortgages are situated in the Township of Grayling, County of Crawford and State of Michigan, and are described as:

Lot 2 and the East 78.95 feet of Lot 4, Clough's Highland Acres, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 65, Crawford County Records.

During the six (6) months immediately following the sale, the property may be redeemed unless the property is abandoned, in which case the redemption shall be thirty (30) days from the date of sale.

For further information with regard to this foreclosure, contact USDA - Rural Development, 1501 Cass Street, Suite A, Traverse City, Michigan, 49684, telephone (231) 941-0951.

Dated: December 12, 2007

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

acting through the Farmers Home

Administration (now Rural

Development), United States Department

of Agriculture, Mortgagee

Michael I. Conlon (P43954)

Running, Wise, Ford, P.L.C.

326 E. State Street, P.O. Box 686

Traverse City, MI 49685-0686

-27-3-10-17

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Eric J. Felix and Kelly V. Felix, husband and wife as joint tenants, original mortgagor(s), to Long Beach Mortgage Company, Mortgagee, dated November 23, 2004, and recorded on December 6, 2004 in Liber 672 on Page 757, in Crawford County records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Sixty-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Five And 58/100 Dollars (\$69,375.58), including interest at 8.25% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Crawford County, at 10:00 AM, on January 16, 2008.

Said premises are situated in Township of Grayling, Crawford County, Michigan, and are described as: Commencing at the North 1/4 corner of Section 14, Town 26 North, Range 2 West; thence South 0 degrees 46 Minutes West, 660.54 feet; thence North 89 Degrees 34 Minutes West, 656 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence continuing West 204.02 feet; thence South 0 degrees 48 Minutes 49 Seconds West, 813.45 feet to the center of Wakeley Bridge Road; thence North 65 Degrees 42 Minutes West, 226.25 feet; thence North 1 Degree 32 Minutes 30 Seconds East, 715.65 feet to the Point of Beginning

The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: December 13, 2007

For more information, please call:

FC R 248.593.1305

Trott & Trott, P.C.

Attorneys For Servicer

31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200

Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525

File #176655F01

-13-20-27-3

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

PETER M. SCHNEIDERMAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C., IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT (248)539-7400 IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by KENNETH M. SMITH, A SINGLE MAN, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender's successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated August 10, 2005, and recorded on August 19, 2005, in Liber 676, on Page 910, Crawford County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Fifty-Three Thousand Two Hundred Forty Dollars and Thirty-Nine

Cents (\$153,240.39), including interest at 6.000% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the front door of the County Building in Grayling, Michigan, at 10:00 AM o'clock, on January 16, 2008

Said premises are situated in Crawford County, Michigan and described as:

PARCEL "D" - PART OF THE NORTH 1 / 2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1 / 4 OF SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 27 NORTH, RANGE 4 WEST, FREDERIC TOWNSHIP, CRAWFORD COUNTY, MICHIGAN: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTH 1 / 4 CORNER OF SAID SECTION 2; THENCE NORTH 1 DEGREE 11 MINUTES 45 SECONDS EAST (ALONG THE NORTH AND SOUTH 1 / 4 LINE) 1757.6 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 54 MINUTES WEST, 1807.43 FEET TO THE LEFT BANK OF THE AUSABLE RIVER; THENCE NORTH 31 DEGREES 26 MINUTES EAST (ALONG SAID BANK) 154.9 FEET; THENCE NORTH 12 DEGREES 54 MINUTES WEST (ALONG SAID BANK), 116.0 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 54 MINUTES EAST, 1757.68 FEET TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH 1 / 4 LINE; THENCE SOUTH 1 DEGREE 11 MINUTES 45 SECONDS WEST 245 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. THIS PARCELS EXTENDS TO THE WATERS EDGE OF THE AUSABLE RIVER.

The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: December 5, 2007.

Mortgage Electronic

Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"),

solely as nominee for lender and lender's

successors and assigns,

Mortgagee/Assignee

Peter M. Schneiderman & Associates,

P.C.

23100 Providence Drive, Suite 450

Southfield, MI 480755

-13-20-27-3

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Janet L. Berry, and Donald S. Berry, Wife and Husband, original mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns, Mortgagee, dated October 23, 2006, and recorded on November 3, 2006 in Liber 684 on Page 25, in Crawford County records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the

date hereof the sum of Eighty-Six Thousand Twenty And 38/100 Dollars (\$86,020.38), including interest at 6.875% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Crawford County, at 10:00 AM, on January 23, 2008.

Said premises are situated in Township of Grayling, Crawford County, Michigan, and are described as: The East 1/2 of the West 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 1, Town 26 North, Range 3 West.

The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: December 20, 2007

For more information, please call:

FC X 248.593.1302

Trott & Trott, P.C.

Attorneys For Servicer

31440 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200

Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-2525

File #148070F02

-20-27-3-10

MORTGAGE SALE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Scott E. Corpe and Tammy L. Corpe, husband and wife, to Fifth Third Mortgage-MI, LLC, Mortgagee, dated July 28, 2004 and recorded July 30, 2004 in Liber 670, Page 704, Crawford County Records, Michigan. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred Twenty and 37/100 Dollars (\$14,220.37) including interest at 4.875% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the front door of the County Building in Grayling in Crawford County, Michigan at 10:00 a.m. on FEBRUARY 6, 2008.

Said premises are located in the Township of South Branch, Crawford County, Michigan, and are described as:

Lot 35, Indian Glens of the Ausable, Unit 1, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 3 of Plats, Page 10, Crawford County Records.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind

FEATURES

A LOOK AT OUR PAST FROM THE PAGES OF THE AVALANCHE



January 3, 1985 - Six Crawford County commissioners, and the new county sheriff, are sworn in by county clerk Elizabeth Wieland. Shown from left are Harold Hatfield, the new sheriff, and commissioners William Ruddy, Mary Harland, Andie Neilson, Jeannette Kitchen, Larry Mattis and John Miller.

23 Years Ago January 3, 1985

County commissioners took away \$5,093 in proposed pay hikes for county department heads and put most of that money into the airport's budget.

The circuit court race, and county sheriff, were the most expensive area contests in last November's election, according to campaign statements in public files at the Crawford County Courthouse. In the circuit court race covering three counties, the winner, Alton Davis of Grayling, listed \$15,084 in contributions, received from May 1, 1984, to

Oct. 19, 1984. Campaign expenses for that period for Davis were listed at \$15,300. His opponent, James Cotant of Gaylord, listed \$13,902 in contributions during a comparable period from May 31 to Oct. 21. His expenses were listed as \$13,094.

The best students at Grayling Middle School, for the month of December, were Erika Sattler, Bill Franks, Brigid Jones, Nicole Trenary, James Brackenbury, Lori Dean, Eric Elliott, Christy Fisher, Tammy Fenton, Amy Denton, Cheryl Barber, Matt Branch, David Montgomery, Jeff Haas, Ricky O'Brien, Becky Scott,

Candace Grigsby, Jenny Doty, Holly Matewicz and James Montoya.

46 Years Ago January 4, 1962

Although the new Chief Shoppenagons Motor Hotel has been opened for business for some time and although an open house was held at one time to allow the public to look through the remodeled and refurbished establishment, the official grand opening has been slated for Jan. 6.

Maxie Tobin, son of the Bill Tobins, was the lucky winner of the boys bicycle given away at Mac's Drug Store on Dec. 23. He is very proud of his new bike and wishes to thank all who voted for him.

The Frederic Eagles basketball team won their first game in the St. Mary's Holiday Tournament, beating Vanderbilt 42-29, but were eliminated by the host team, the Snowbirds of Gaylord St. Mary's, 66-38.

69 Years Ago January 5, 1939

The New Year's Eve party given at the Masonic Hall was one of the gala holiday affairs given in this community. The ballroom had been made very attractive with colored balloons, and clever silhouette figures of dancing girls (for which Mrs. Roy Mines may take a bow) covered the wall spaces. The George Hext orchestra of Alma furnished the music and kept the dancers happy until a late hour. The party was sponsored by the Hospital

Aid Society for the benefit of Mercy Hospital.

The School Board and City Department of Health have decided that school will open Jan. 9. At that time the quarantine for scarlet fever will be lifted. During the holidays, it was decided that school would not reopen on Jan. 3.

It seems good to have the streets plowed after the heavy snow storms that blocked all the streets for a couple of days. A snow plow was loaned to the city from the State Highway Maintenance garage, as the one city plow could not handle all the plowing in a short time. The approximate cost for the removal for the last week amounted to \$86 for wages and about \$80 for trucks.

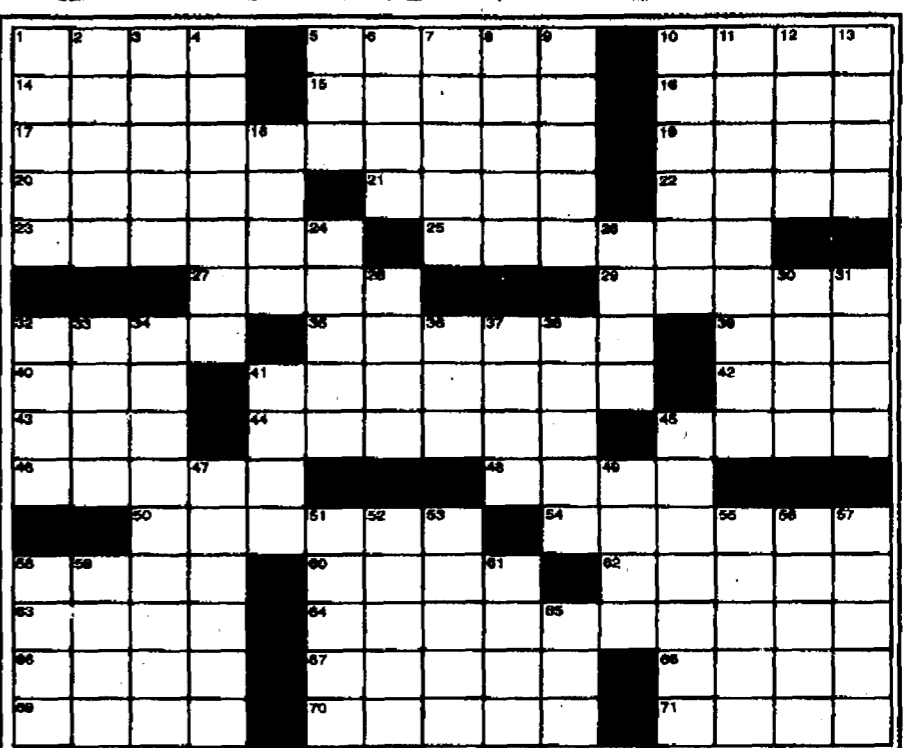
92 Years Ago January 6, 1916

Fred Alexander, Glen Smith, Charles Abbott, Abe Joseph and Emil Giegling have been appointed to the executive committee for making arrangements and conducting the annual K of P Ball.

Miss Augusta Kraus left Sunday, for Birch Run, to continue her duties as a teacher in the schools there.

Fire completely destroyed the farm home of Hans Christenson of Beaver Creek Township. Nothing was saved of the household goods, the family escaping with only the clothing that they wore.

CROSSWORD



- Across
1. Fictional town on Picket Fences.
 5. Arranges by categories.
 10. Declaring windy.
 14. CNBC news anchor. Isabelle Burnett.
 15. Become hardened to.
 16. Again but in a new way.
 17. Act of deliberate self-denial.
 19. Film directed by Jon Favreau in 2001.
 20. Author. Paul Read.
 21. Difficult concern.
 22. Growth-regulating chemical sprayed on fruit trees so entire crop can be harvested at one time.
 23. Silver.
 25. Securely in position.
 27. Acronym for Assistive Technology Resource Alliance.
 29. Adams.
 32. Basketball player Earl "The..." Manigault.
 35. Deducts from an amount.
 39. Acronym for Instruments of Anarchy.
 40. Electrical conduction through a gas in an applied electric field.
 41. Displaying a lack of maturity.
 42. Sheath worn to protect a finger.
 43. Primitive predaceous North American fish covered with hard scales and having long jaws with needlelike teeth.
 44. Be present at meetings.
 45. Seeks information.
 46. Sailing vessel with a single mast set about one third of the boat's length aft of the bow.
 48. Hard external covering of certain amoebas, diatoms and sea urchins.
 50. Gets off the ground.
 54. Fictional character in the DC Comics universe and an enemy of Batman.
 58. Military cap with a round flat top usually sloping toward the front and a visor.
 60. Subject of study.
 62. Avoid answering duties.
 63. Mixture.
 64. Inflammation of a tendon.
 66. Acronym for Open Access Rewards System.
 67. Showing keen interest.
 68. Piece of land on which something is located.
 69. Joint in the middle part of the leg.
 70. Smell badly.
 71. Used to form the superlative.
- Down
1. Obtains a reward.
 2. Bony cavity in the skull containing the eyeball.
 3. Stingy hoarder of money and possessions.
 4. Ask with emotion.
 5. God of the moon.
 6. On the top of.
 7. ...X Files by Kevin J. Anderson.
 8. Various game and food fishes of cool, fresh waters smaller than typical salmon.
 9. General conscious awareness.
 10. Open shelter, often having a dome-shaped thatched roof, installed on beaches and picnic grounds.
 11. Science of analysis.
 12. One of four ancient holy books of the Hindus.
 13. Open vessel with a handle and spout for pouring.
 18. Cardinal direction.
 24. New York band who started playing in 1961.
 26. Polygonal recess at the end of a Christian church opposite the main entry where the altar placed.
 28. Contribute as an assistant to the commission of an offense.
 31. Fifteen small islands in this South Pacific Ocean country.
 33. Pieces of clothing for the head.
 34. Humorous anecdotes intended to provoke laughter.
 35. Test requiring spoken answers.
 36. Sprout at the end of a seed when it begins to germinate.
 38. Metric unit of land measure equal to 100 square meters.
 37. Quality of a given color that differs slightly from a primary color.
 38. Person valued for their wisdom that holds a position of responsibility in a Christian group.
 41. M., on mythology couple Rangi and ... who appear in the creation myth explaining the origin of the world.
 45. Reappearance of an earlier characteristic.
 47. Serving no useful purpose.
 49. Chinese word for an enlightened, immortal person.
 51. Local taxes on property.
 52. Handle in a particular manner.
 53. Monetary unit of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
 55. Brand of soda introduced by Pepsi in 1960.
 56. Eliminates.
 57. Peace Orchestra. ... remix album of Peace Orchestra.
 58. Person considered eccentric.
 59. Character in the webcomic The Order of the Stick.
 61. First president of Somalia. Abdullah Osman Daar.
 65. Vex.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK



12 frozen buttermilk biscuits
8 eggs
4 1/2 cups milk
2/3 cup sugar

Biscuit Bread Pudding

Heat oven to 350° F. Bake biscuits as directed on bag. Cool completely, about 20 minutes. Meanwhile, generously spray twelve 10-oz. custard cups; or twelve 4 1/2 x 1 1/4-inch disposable foil tart pans; with cooking spray. In large bowl, beat eggs. Add milk, sugar, raisins, cinnamon and vanilla; mix well. Cut baked biscuits into 1-inch cubes. Add to egg mixture; mix well. Let stand 5 minutes. Divide biscuit mixture evenly among custard cups. Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until set. With knife or metal spatula, loosen edges of each pudding; slide onto dessert plate. Drizzle with warm topping.

2/3 cup raisins
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
2 teaspoons vanilla
caramel topping, warmed, if desired

Makes 12 Servings

FIND THE TWINS

WHICH TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE?

SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

| | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| ARCTIC | COLD | ICY |
| BREK | COOL | NIPPY |
| BRUMAL | FROGID | POLAR |
| CHILLY | FROSTY | WINTRY |

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

CHILLUFHYN
BRIBRUMALE
RDREWDWQLA
NIPPYLYDIS
FGFRGONHHJ
RILARCTICK
ORMLNBRISK
SFROSTYCOL
TBVPCZCOOL
IFRIGDINIP

MAZE

ADOPT A PET



Socks

Socks is a beautiful Tortoiseshell cat. She is spayed, front declawed, up to date on her vaccinations and Feline leukemia tested. This quiet and easy going cat is all ready for a new home.

Holly

Holly is a great Lab mix puppy with a sweet temperament. She is almost three months old. This girl has been wormed and has had her first round of puppy shots.



The AuSable Valley Animal Shelter is a participating member of the Very Best Pet Network.

AuSable Valley Animal Shelter is located at:
5786 Fairground Lane, Grayling
Use the entrance to the Crawford County Fairgrounds
Hours: Open 10 to 3 pm Monday thru Saturday, 10 to 12 pm on Sundays and Holidays
After hour appointments available. Call (989) 348-4117
For more pets or more information, visit our website www.assc.petfinder.com

HOROSCOPES

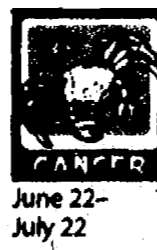
For the week of January 3, 2008



Capricorn
December 22-January 19
Aah, Capricorn. Travel is in your future, but it won't come in the way you expect. A surprise package lightens the mood at the office and puts everyone at ease.



Aries
March 21-April 19
Uh-oh, Aries. Love is not what it once was. Take steps to improve your relationship and intensify the passion. A letter alerts to you a potential trouble spot in the family.



Cancer
June 22-July 22
Psst, Cancer. Your integrity is about to be tested. Don't worry. You'll pass with flying colors. News of an engagement thrills you beyond measure.



Libra
September 23-October 22
Ugh, Libra. A friend gets into trouble again and returns to you for help. Be honest and straightforward, even if what you have to say is not what they want to hear.



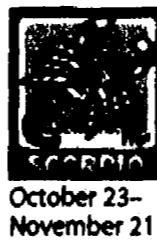
Aquarius
January 20-February 18
Times are changing at work, Aquarius, and you cannot afford to ignore that fact any longer. Get with the program. A question remains unanswered at home.



Taurus
April 20-May 20
The tide is turning in your favor, Taurus. Move quickly to capitalize on the situation. You don't have much time. A long-lost friend resurfaces. Embrace them.



Leo
July 23-August 22
Financial matters move front and center, Leo, and it may be time for you to consult the pros. A truce begins at home. Be thankful for the interlude.



Scorpio
October 23-November 21
A vacation opportunity knocks on your door. Pursue it, Scorpio. You deserve a little R&R now and then, especially with the challenge that is about to fall into your lap.



Sagittarius
November 22-December 21
Small blessings envelop your life, Pisces. Be sure you share your joy with those who mean the most to you. A inside remark clues you in to the real problem at home.



Pisces
February 19-March 20
Words of wisdom must not be abandoned, Gemini, no matter what the source. A situation is brewing at home, and you must resolve it before it gets out of hand.



Gemini
March 21-April 19
Recent efforts at home are rewarded in a number of ways, Virgo. Savor the moment. Work will soon pile up again and require further assistance and delegation.



Virgo
August 23-September 22
Words tell you this week, Sagittarius. It's not like you to be so tongue-tied. Don't worry. Your savvy communication skills will return in the nick of time.

WEATHER

Courtesy of the City of Grayling

| Last Week | | | Extended Forecast | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|-------------------|----------|---------------|-----------------|---------|-------------------|
| Date | H | L | Temp. | Icon | Icon | Icon | Icon | Icon |
| 12/25 | 32 | 25 | 0 | | | | | |
| 12/26 | 32 | 17 | 0 | | | | | |
| 12/27 | 33 | 26 | 0.18 | High 22 | High 28 | High 32 | High 37 | High 41 |
| 12/28 | 32 | 27 | 0.31 | Low 19 | Low 25 | Low 31 | Low 34 | Low 36 |
| 12/29 | 32 | 25 | 0.01 | Few Snow | Mostly Cloudy | Light Windy Mix | Showers | Scattered Showers |
| 12/30 | 30 | 23 | 0 | | | | | |

ADVERTISING CLASSIFIED

Classifieds must be paid for in advance
Display Advertising Rate - \$8.00 per column inch
Deadline for Display Classifieds - 12 noon, Monday
Classifieds by the word rate - \$6.00 for 15 words or
less, 10¢ per each additional word; includes Internet listing:
www.crawfordcountysavalaanche.com
Classified by the word deadline - 12 noon, Tuesday

Crawford County Avalanche

1. Real Estate

2-3 BEDROOM 2 bath, year round ranch in peaceful setting, on maintained road, near lakes and snowmobiling. (586) 446-0004. (586) 713-7500. (6/22/06t/f/1)

FIVE ACRES both sides river, both sides road. Three bedroom 2 bath ranch. Two possible bedroom plus family room, storage in walk-out basement. Pole building across road 989-348-8524. (11/08/2007t/f/1)

FOR SALE, will consider land contract or rent with option, 5256 Old 27 N. Frederic. Newly renovated inside and out. 3 Br, \$99,000. 348-4252 days or 348-5256 after 5 pm and weekends. (-3-10/1)

1. Real Estate

THIS AUSABLE RIVER HOME has over 175 feet of river frontage, and is only 25 feet from the river. You can fly fish from the 750 square foot wrap-around deck. Enjoy this 2,175 square foot brick 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom home located on the East Branch, 1 mile north of Mercy Hospital. Featuring a full sized kitchen, living room, finished walkout basement, fireplace, hot tub, large cedar sauna and much more. The manicured lawn, hard to see at this time of year, is watered from an underground sprinkler system and looks like a well maintained golf course. Price has been reduced from \$239,500 down to \$214,500 - a \$25,000 savings. If you buy my house, I would be willing to lease it from you for 2 years. Let's talk. Call 989-348-2083 for showing by owner. (-3/1)

2. For Rent

CABIN AND MOBILE HOME at Lost Acres Cabins. Cabin #6 \$375, with utilities, near Blue Gill Lake. 11010 N. Old US 27, 2 br mobile home, \$395, (new paint, carpet, windows) plus utilities & security, no pets. 11006 N. Old US 27 877-227-6976. (1/3/08t/f/2)

TWO BEDROOM HOUSE, 1/2 mile from Bear Lake. \$470 a month call 231-275-6887. (-3-10/2)

MOBILE HOMES 4 RENT \$425 and up, some pet restrictions. Also, trailers for sale. 348-5278. (9/28/06t/f/2)

OFFICE SPACE 570 sq. ft. for lease in the Industrial Park. 989-348-6460. (9/27/07t/f/2)

2. For Rent

SENIOR APARTMENTS AVAILABLE at The Brook Retirement Communities. Offering Independent and Assisted Living. Lots of amenities, activities, beautiful surroundings and affordable living. Communities located in: Houghton Lake (989) 422-7200 Roscommon (989) 275-4000, West Branch (989) 343-1400, Gladwin (989) 426-8700. Call or stop by today for a personalized tour. (5/10/2007t/f/2)

NICE CLEAN 2 BEDROOM mobile with garage, washer/dryer and appliances. \$450, no pets. 989-348-2418. (-3-10-17-24/2)

2. For Rent

WAREHOUSE SPACE 1,200 sq. ft. for lease in the Industrial Park. 989-348-6460. (9/27/07t/f/2)

FOR RENT 2 br home on the Manistee River. Freshly remodeled, beautiful views, garage, partial basement, storage building. No smoking. Available November 14th. \$650/month + \$650 security deposit. Contact Craig Hinkle for application at 989-348-7440. (12/27/07t/f/2)

TWO BEDROOM DUPLEX appliances, heat, garage \$650 a month 989-390-0027. (10/18/07t/f/2)

2. For Rent

REDUCED
 This log home offers 3 bedroom and 1 bath. While currently being utilized residentially it is an area zoned for commercial use. #5921 \$69,500
 Call
Pete Kocenas
Century 21
 RIVER COUNTRY REAL ESTATE
 989-344-1800
 Grayling

RE/MAX of Grayling
 5728 M-72 West
 EACH OFFICE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED
CHARLENE SCHEER
 Broker / Owner
 Licensed Real Estate Appraiser
 CRS, GRI, CRS, ABR
CRAIG HINKLE
 Broker/Owner
 State Licensed Appraiser

"So what can you tell me about this 'perfect' real estate agent?"

You don't need a private detective to track down the perfect real estate agent. All you need is remax.com. When you visit RE/MAX online, you'll discover the quickest way to find the perfect agent for you - no matter how stringent your qualifications. RE/MAX agents average more experience and more sales than other agents. They also average more advanced real estate designations, meaning they do what it takes to stay on top of their profession. Find the agent who's right for you. Visit remax.com, or stop by your nearest RE/MAX office today.

LAKE MARGRETHE
 100' FRONTAGE ON BEAUTIFUL LAKE MARGRETHE! Open floor plan with cathedral ceiling and beautiful brick fireplace for those cozy evenings. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths offers 2,063 sq. ft. West side. Snack bar. Master suite offers large walk-in closet and sunken tub with separate shower. Interior offers cedar and drywall. New roof on house and garage. Walk-out patio doors onto large deck. Foyer sidewalk. Sprinkler system. 2 car detached garage. Black top driveway. Beautifully landscaped. CS-2561 \$249,000

LAKE MARGRETHE ACCESS
 100 FEET OF PRIVATE DEEDED LAKE ACCESS TO MARGRETHE (ALL SPORTS LAKE) 1980 ACRES. 2 Story Contemporary creates visual excitement in this 4-5 bedroom, 3 bath with gas fireplace. Master Suite offers walkout balcony, large walk-in closet and 2 separate vanities, double shower. Beautiful oak kitchen cabinets with built-ins. Snack Bar. 2 car attached garage plus large storage building and shed. Secluded patio (deck with gazebo) surrounded by rolling lawn. CS-2577 \$225,000

10 ACRES
 RECREATIONAL ENTHUSIAST 3 to 4 bedrooms with 2 baths. Knotty Pine tongue and grove. Security system. Detached 26 x 30 finished heated garage with 3 garage doors for easy in and out for snowmobiles. Home is furnished. Snowmobile out your door to state land and Blue Bear Trails. Secluded setting on 10+/- acres adjoining State Land to the East. CS-2458 \$199,000

ADJOINS STATE LAND
 ADJOINS STATE LAND on north side of property. New construction in shell status, finish yourself and save. 1,340 s.f., open loft, septic, 5 block crawl space. Interior partitions, windows, and doors installed. Two sheds included. Outdoor sauna and wood burner not included. CH-2555 \$63,900

REDUCED
 BEAUTIFUL WOODED SETTING ONLY 1/2 MILE FROM CITY LIMITS. 1,308 s.f. home with 3 bedrooms and 1 1/2 baths. Home is located on blacktop street with drywall interior and natural gas. 24 x 30 garage and concrete driveway. Adjoining lot available for \$14,900.00 CH-2353 \$82,500

REDUCED
 SECLUDED HUNTING CAMP ON 30 ACRES. Includes 1972 travel trailer and has state land on two sides (North and South). Easy access off expressway and close to Higgins Lake. 30 acres 990x1,320. Seller Motivated. CH-2402 \$48,500

BIG CREEK
 ATTENTION TROUT FISHERMEN!!! 61' FRONTAGE ON BIG CREEK. Very affordable 3 bedroom full cedar cottage. 936 s.f. with full walk out basement. Vaulted-beamed-cedar ceiling with trapezoid windows on two sides. 8x40 deck overlooking Big Creek. Warbler's Association within 300 ft. amenities include: volleyball court, club house, swimming pool, and fishing pond for kids. CH-2513 \$84,900

800-731-4002 You're #1 with us (989) 348-7440
 See us on the internet www.remax-grayling-mi.com
 Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Sun. By Appt. Only

Century 21 RIVER COUNTRY
 Servicing Every Size and Every Budget!

This home features 2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths and large loft for additional living space. Attached large 2 car garage with second floor, fenced area in backyard, property adjoins state land and is just over 3 acres. #5882 \$129,900

Secluded but easy access, beautiful 10 square acres of property, plus beautiful home with 3 bedrooms and 2-1/2 baths with over 2,000 s.f. of living space, enclosed large porch, attached garage. Must See!! #5711 \$198,900

Cozy home or cottage in a great location. Home features screened in porch, knotty pine interior, 2 car garage and is close to Fox Run Golf Course. Third bedroom currently used as den. Come make it your own. #75,900 #5616

Great location! This home is only 4 years old and looks brand new. Home offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, central air, open floor plan and a 2 car detached garage. #85,000 #5795

2 acre parcel on the corner of Chase Bridge and Diamond. This 2 bedroom cabin is clean as a whistle and comes furnished...what you see is what you get. Large lot area with 4 beds for all the company. It even has a one car garage. #57,500 #5741

Very nice and clean 3 bedroom, 2 bath home only 6 years old in the city of Grayling. Close to everything you need for comfortable city living. Fenced in back yard and a nice concrete driveway. #5770 \$65,000

Three bedrooms, 2 baths, wood heat & forced air, new central air. Attached heated 26 x 32 garage with 12' roll-up door, mechanics lift & 2 drive thru 30 x 40 pole barns with cement floors. 8.75 acres. Room for everything!! \$137,500 #5630

Cozy, energy efficient three bedroom, 1 and 1/2 bath home in friendly neighborhood! Full basement, large deck w/ seating in large fenced-in backyard. Oak cabinets in kitchen & brick gas fireplace in living room. \$75,000 #5913

Stunning 50 ACRE parcel, heavily wooded with some open areas & adjacent to state land; ideal hunting retreat! The property has a very nice cabin & new 36 x 42 pole barn; outdoor lover's dream. \$235,000 #5689

Cozy, charming completely furnished cottage with tons of privacy backing 1,000's of acres of state land. Bath renovated 2 years ago, new windows in the bedrooms & features its own rifle range. #5849 \$64,500

COMMERCIAL
 Multi-purpose professional building. Excellent location perfect for medical clinic or easily converted to several separated office suites. Large reception area. Plenty of street parking on two streets. Move in and open for business on the same day. #5819 \$199,900

Secluded feeling on a nicely landscaped parcel over an acre in size, & just a mile out of town! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, fireplace, living & family rooms, fenced yard, garden area, large deck, workshop AND a full second level to the garage! #5911 \$138,000.00

6088 M-72 West • Grayling, MI 49735 • 989-348-7440 • www.century21gray.com

COLDWELL BANKER
 Cornell Realty Grayling
 6248 M-72 West
 800-300-6653
 989-348-6481

3 bedroom, 2 bath home, well taken care of has a newer 18 X 24 garage with lots of storage-Newer concrete drive and approach-Sunscreener Awaiting for bright sunny days, back yard is fenced in. Has tie downs on foundation. #251163 \$74,588

Fenced back yard, perennial gardens, nice neighborhood. Priced to Sell! You've got to take a look! #249401 \$79,900

4 seasons of fun. Only .08 miles from the Ausable River. 1.2 miles from 1,000's of acres of State Land and snowmobile trails, and close to small lakes full of bass and blue gills. Tons of storage area, 2-car garage, wood shed, RV storage shed and another garage. Move in in the same day you close. #247778 \$79,900

Farmhouse refurbished with new windows, vinyl, electric plumbing, new kitchen, new furnace, bath, downstairs bedroom, front door, basement is almost totally insulated. Roof and Septic 1 yr. old. Outside buildings with new roof & electric, dog houses & some fenced in areas for your animals. Great place to raise kids, grow your garden and enjoy the peace and quiet of the out doors. #253165 \$129,000

174FT of Private frontage on upper Ausable River. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is only about 60FT off the river. Beautiful location, just minutes from State Land and snowmobile Trails. #253713 \$129,900

Stunning custom built home on 3.49 acres, 4 BR, 3 Bath. Beautiful gas log fireplace, central air, underground sprinkler, 28 X 32 garage. Beautiful tree cover and adjoins state land, and MUCH, MUCH more! #252842 \$199,900

Stunning, this 1,600 sq. ft. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home, offers, fireplace, dishwasher, washer/dryer, central air, jacuzzi tub in master bath, has a 100 X 200 pond with liner and windmill, pole barn, gazebo, home shoe pits, volleyball court, great fire pit. Great location for horses on this 35 acres! #251525 \$224,000

Large family home offers: Updated kitchen with tumbled tile back splash, new wood laminate flooring, tile in master bath, finished basement, new roof in 2004, 30 year shingle, extra insulation, high efficient furnace, Anderson Windows, central air all this on 10 acres. Additional 26x36 Garage for storing all your toys. #251051 \$199,900

Emery Pines Community
 Is offering a \$1000.00 of rent*
 For your new home in the New Year
 We are now accepting applications for our new Emery Pines Community Homes

The new community offers 3 bedroom, two full baths, walk-in closet, dishwasher, central a/c, washer & dryer, window treatments, frost free refrigerator, playground area, 1100 square feet of living area, barrier free unit available and a beautiful country setting.

Emery Pines Community is located in Houghton Lake

Rents starts at \$635.00 per month
 To receive an application or schedule an appointment, please call 1-800-399-1911
 *For qualified applicants
 Equal Housing Opportunity

2. For Rent

FOR RENT 1,400 sq. ft., 3 B/R, 2 bath with 150' frontage on the Manistee River. Includes 2 car garage, gas fireplace and is adjacent to state land. \$650/month + security + utilities. No smoking. Please call Craig Hinkle for application 989-348-7440. (10/25/07/tf/2)

THREE BEDROOM ranch home, remodeled, like new. Natural gas, nice neighborhood, 1 1/2 bath, garage, nonsmoking. Lawn care for seniors \$695. 1056 Little John Ave. 989-348-2178. (12/13/07/tf/2)

FOR LEASE will consider land contract or rent with option, 5256 Old 27 N. Frederic. Newly renovated inside and out. 3 Br. lease at \$695 month. 348-4252 days or 348-5256 after 5 PM and week-ends. (-3-10/2)

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT for rent. Completely furnished, no pets. 989-348-8471. (-27-3-10/2)

VIKING VILLAGE APARTMENTS are now taking applications for current availability. Very nice two bedroom, two bath apartments approximately one mile west of Grayling off M-72. Units in this quiet community include central air conditioning, attached garage, paved lighted streets and driveways, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer and dryer. Lawn care, snow removal, and garbage pickup included in annual lease. Contact Herb Olson, at 989 348-9456, for more information. (11/29/07/tf/2)

2. For Rent

TWO-BEDROOM DUPLEX totally remodeled, floors, cabinets, drywall, appliances, etc. Storage, lawncare, snowplowing, adult non-smoking \$495 810 Park. 348-2178. (12/13/07/tf/2)

3. Employment

LEELIN HOME HEALTH CARE, Inc. is looking for Home Health Aides and CNAs in Grayling and the surrounding areas to perform all manner of home care services for clients in their own home. Personal Care experience helpful but not required. Driver's license and automobile insurance is required. To schedule an interview, please call our corporate office Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 800-274-0100. EOE. (-27-3/3)

ARE YOU AN RN who feels ready to try a new career path? The Brook Retirement Community of Roscommon has a full time M-F, days position available. Flex hrs., low stress, able to make a difference in the lives and health of our residents. Competitive pay and benefits. Looking for an energetic, organized person to oversee the clinical functions of the assisted living residents, plan/carry out activities, clinical training of staff, public relations. Would also consider an LPN with the right background. Exp. in long term care/geriatrics essential. Send resume to D. Friedrichsen, The Brook, 195 State Street, Roscommon, MI 48653 by January 4th. (-20-27-3/3)

3. Employment

DRIVER TRAINEES needed now. Drivers being hired and CDL trained for Werner Enterprises. \$800/week no experience needed 800-882-7364. (-10-17-24-31/3)

TWO SALES POSITIONS AVAILABLE, 1 entry level CHEM DRY, cleaning tech hourly plus bonus, 1 for in home replacement windows, siding & insulation, base plus commission. Please fax resume to Anderson Installation Services at 231-946-3137 or call 231-946-2206 for more information. (-27-3/3)

4. Services Offered

SEWING, ZIPPERS, QUILTING Military welcome, open 6 days a week. (989)348-9349. (1/11/07/tf/4)

RTH HOME IMPROVEMENT all your interior and exterior needs. Garages, additions, drywall, painting, roofing, siding, decks, and more. Licensed and insured, free estimates. Rob Harrington 989-344-1383. (-9/16/04/tf/4)

D. HAWES/DRIVERS TRAINING Northern Driving School. Segment I, \$260. Segment II, \$40.00. Classes offered in Grayling - January, March, May, June, July; Roscommon - December, March, April, June. The only local driver's education company in Crawford and Roscommon Counties. (989) 344-2470. (11/22/07/tf/4)

4. Services Offered

SNOWPLOWING AND OAK SEASON 16" 18" delivered, \$50 cord Grayling area, other area \$70, roof top ice & snow removal, 30 years experience. Jerry 989-348-7046. (-27-3-10/4)

CHILD CARE in my home, will take part to full time, 390-4168. (11/29/07/tf/4)

RIDING LESSONS special Christmas packages! Horse boarding available. 989-348-9233. (12/13/07/tf/4)

5. For Sale

CABIN LOGS rough sawn lumber, kiln dried lumber, tongue & groove, log siding, custom sawing. T. Warren Sawmill. 989-619-0840. (LR4/10/08/5)

WAKELEY'S FIREWOOD SEASONED OAK \$60 a cord, cut, split and delivered, minimum 2 cord 989-275-4574. (-20-27-3/5)

4. Services Offered

COUPON
\$5.00 OFF SNOWPLOWING
WITH THIS COUPON
390-1850 OR
348-9636
Expires March 1, 2008
COUPON

5. For Sale

RUGER M-77 Mark II 3x9x40 scope, sling \$600. Tikka T3 Big Bore 300 WSM 3x9x40 scope, case, sling and shells \$770. Call 348-8851. (-27-3/5)

5. For Sale

FOR SALE 1998 Polaris 600 XLT. \$1,750, 348-2418. (-3-5)
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Categories (Circle One)

1. Real Estate

3. Employment

6. Wanted

9. Personals

2. For Rent

4. Services Offered

7. Miscellaneous

10. Garage Sales

2a. Want To Rent


5. For Sale

8. Announcements

11. Automotive

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--|
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| \$6.00 | \$6.10 | \$6.20 | \$6.30 | \$6.40 | \$6.50 | \$6.60 | |
| \$6.70 | \$6.80 | \$6.90 | \$7.00 | \$7.10 | \$7.20 | \$7.30 | |
| \$7.40 | \$7.50 | \$7.60 | \$7.70 | \$7.80 | \$7.90 | \$8.00 | |
| \$8.10 | \$8.20 | \$8.30 | \$8.40 | \$8.50 | \$8.60 | \$8.70 | |
| \$8.80 | \$8.90 | \$9.00 | \$9.10 | \$9.20 | \$9.30 | \$9.40 | |
| \$9.50 | \$9.60 | \$9.70 | \$9.80 | \$9.90 | \$10.00 | \$10.10 | |

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102 Michigan Ave
Grayling, MI 49738



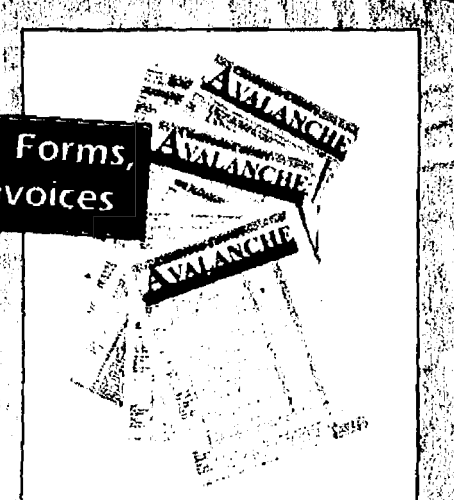
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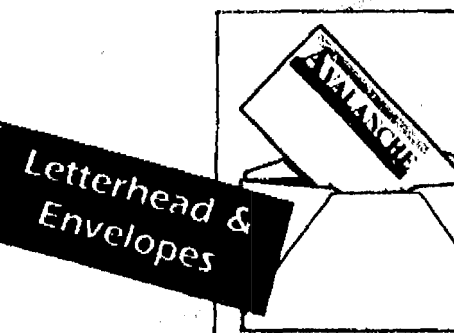
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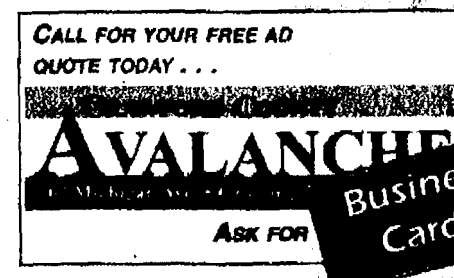
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5. For Sale

FOR SALE: Lear fiberglass pickup topper, fits 1999-2006 GM Crew Cabs. \$800 obo. 989-348-8611. (-27-3/5)

MOM'S & DAD'S grandma's & grandpa's do you have a pony lover in your family? I have one large 11 y.o gelding pony suitable for a lady and one small 13 y.o. mare pony. Lease w/board & lessons- or buy outright. What a great Christmas surprise! Aussi Puppies- not ready to go until after the 1st but can pick one out by Christmas. 989-348-9233. (12/13/07t/5)

HOLIDAY GIFT! I am giving out healthy female English Bulldog for free adoption to a huge animal lover home. Contact me for more details at 313-831-9226 or steve39jason@yahoo.com. (-3-10/5)

6. Wanted

WANTED-SCRAP VEHICLES top dollar paid. Pick up available. 888-471-3818. (3/3/05t/6)

WANTED TO BUY Rittenhouse cottage furniture. 248-851-7585. (03/2/06t/6)

BUYING JUNK VEHICLES Price varies with size but will pay the most. Call Don at 231-587-0856 or 888-468-7313. (10/11/07t/6)

WARREN FOREST PRODUCTS We buy standing timber and sell firewood by the loggers cord. Call 989-348-7133 during the day and leave a message. Evenings call 231-229-4845, ask for Chan. (LR3/27/08/6)

7. Wanted

WOW GABBY'S is now paying \$250 for your junk vehicle delivered to us, \$200 if we pick up. Requirements complete with title 231-258-5726 or 877-SCRAP-30. (-20-27-3/6)

8. Announcements

MIP and anger management programs. GRACE Center, Grayling. 989-348-2544. (10/11/07t/8)

SHAPE UP WITH CHAR, free January classes, call for details 348-6542. (LR1/31/08/8)

10. Garage Sale

RUMMAGE SALE. Wednesday, Jan. 9th at Senior Center, 308 Lawndale, many unique items! (-3/10)

8. Announcements

GUN & KNIFE SHOW Cadillac • Jan. 5th • Vexford Arena Sat 9-5 & Sun 9-4 22 Rifle door prize J & J Sport Shows 1-800-968-5016

9. Personals

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11. Automotive

CAR DETAILING Let JJ's Motor Mall make your vehicle sparkle inside & out! 348-7710. (5/31/07t/11)

AUTO GLASS repair and replacement now available at JJ's Auto Glass. 348-7710. (9/29/05t/11)

2 ACR car racing seats for \$300. 989-348-2495. (11/1/07t/11)

FOR SALE: 1965 Mustang. Needs some work \$3,500. Serious inquiries only. 989-348-2495. (9/20/07t/11)

1995 CHEVY 1/2 ton 4 x 4 truck ext. cab. Tan with tan interior, power door locks, brakes, windows, cruise, air and lear cap with bed liner. 126,000 miles, good condition. Blue book \$5,360, my price \$3,995 must sell, call 989-348-4337. (-27-3/11)

THE CAR LOT is always open in the Avalanche classifieds. (989) 348-6811

2003 CHEVY IMPALA, ps/pb, 4-door, well maintained, 30 mpg, 97,000 miles, mobile one always \$5,900 obo, 989-344-9508. (-3-10/11)

1992 CHEVY 1/2 TON 4 x 4 truck ext cab, power windows & locks, cruise, bed liner, tonno cover- newer motor and trans, many new parts, good condition \$2250 obo, 989-348-1875. (-3-10/11)

11. Automotive

Crossword Answers

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | O | M | E | S | O | R | T | S | R | A | V | E |
| E | R | I | N | T | I | N | E | R | A | N | E | W |
| A | B | S | T | E | N | T | I | O | N | M | A | D |
| P | I | E | R | S | O | N | U | S | A | L | A | R |
| S | T | R | E | A | K | S | T | E | A | D | Y | |
| A | T | R | A | P | A | T | C | H | | | | |
| G | O | A | T | A | B | A | T | E | S | T | O | A |
| A | R | C | H | E | R | I | L | E | C | O | T | |
| G | A | R | A | T | T | E | N | D | A | S | K | S |
| S | L | O | O | P | | | | | | | | |
| S | T | A | R | T | S | R | E | A | P | E | R | |
| K | E | P | I | A | R | E | A | V | A | D | E | |
| O | L | I | O | T | E | N | D | I | N | I | T | S |
| O | A | R | S | E | A | G | E | R | S | I | T | E |
| K | N | E | E | S | T | I | N | K | M | O | S | T |

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